

[Translation]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE—IMPACT ON QUEBEC'S NORTH SHORE REGION

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, last week, the magazine *La semaine*, in its October 22 issue, published the following headline:

Sept-Îles, a dying town

Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that the impression given by the press is false, because Sept-Îles is not dying. It has serious problems, like the town of Port Cartier, except that its problems are directly connected with the iron ore issue, and at the present time, thanks to the Canadian Government and the establishment of the National Harbours Board at Sept-Îles, which is working on setting up a German aluminum refinery in the region, we feel that future developments on the North Shore will be successful. Similarly, the federal Government is working very hard to support the Province of Quebec in reopening the Rayonier Québec plant at Port Cartier. Madam Speaker, I think it is important to set the record straight about the North Shore. Sept-Îles is not just the Iron Ore Company, there are other companies, including Wabush Mines which is doing very good work. In fisheries there has been a tremendous expansion during the past season, and the federal Government has invested around \$40 million in the region in the past year. All of this has been done to provide a proper infrastructure and to diversify. I felt it was important to point this out, I hope the Leader of the Opposition agrees with the Member for Manicouagan.

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● (1415)

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

LACK OF SERVICE IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, just think what it must be like to live in a community which is only accessible by air and is 100 miles or more from the nearest post office. Although I raised this question several times in the House of Commons, and local post office employees are doing everything they can, people in such communities are still stymied by senior post office bureaucrats from the south.

In villages where there are no banks it is especially important that post office services should include CODs and the issuing of money orders. Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, and Jean Marie River have no post office. Lac La Martre and Rae Lakes have no post office even though the combined population is over 500 and they are served by a regularly scheduled air line.

Oral Questions

It would be easy to establish contract post offices in such locations, as has been done in similar places. People in the north have an equal right to proper postal services, and they are thoroughly disgusted with a Liberal Government which completely neglects their interests.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GRENADA—ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVACUATION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade who answered questions yesterday with respect to the Grenadian situation. Will the Minister confirm, or otherwise, a recent Canadian Press story which stated permission had been denied to Canada to send a plane to evacuate Canadian national from the island of Grenada? Would he also indicate whether all Canadians on the island are safe?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, the national Defence Forces of Canada have a 707 on the ground at Barbados ready to evacuate Canadian nationals who wish to leave the island of Grenada at the earliest point they can get permission from the occupation authorities to land on the island. However, there has now arisen the complication that the condition of the airport may not be such as to receive a plane of the 707 type. Within the next two hours a Hercules aircraft will be departing Canada to be available to airlift Canadian nationals, the Hercules being able to land on the type of runway presently in use on Grenada.

The Americans have not given clearance up to this point in time. They said they were giving priority to military aircraft because of their concern with the conflict which is still under way, and military needs of that type. I have, within the past half hour, met with the United States Ambassador to Canada and requested that he make arrangements on a most urgent basis for permission for a Canadian aircraft to land on Grenada to remove our nationals.

SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, I would like the Minister to assure the House that all Canadians are safe to this point. Would he also explain to the House the Government's slowness, its lethargy, in getting Canadians off that island, bearing in mind that up until Monday 12 days had elapsed from the time Prime Minister Bishop was deposed, five days had elapsed from the time he was slaughtered along with three other Cabinet Ministers, and why could the Government