

## S. O. 31

## CANADA POST

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris):** Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that Canada Post, as a Crown corporation, essentially operates independent of Parliament, on behalf of many residents of Brandon—Souris, I would like to urge Canada Post, in the words of a recent *Deloraine Times & Star* editorial to “Consult With Your Community”.

Although most Canadians are relieved to know that Canada Post no longer requires a \$300 or \$400-million annual subsidy upon which it used to depend, many rural residents are frustrated and angry with this Crown corporation's recent tendency to reduce both the hours of service and the number of employees without consulting with either the local postmaster or town and rural municipal officials.

If Canada Post officials have sound and logical reasons for the policy changes which they are announcing, they presumably could convince others of the merits of those proposals. To proceed, however, as they are currently doing, without consulting with local leaders, is only to ask for the angry editorial response which many rural weekly newspapers are now providing.

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## UNITED NATIONS DAY

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, today is United Nations Day, the 45th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

In the past half century, the United Nations has had enormous successes and, of course, significant disappointments. The successes include programs of health, aid to refugees, and progress on development. The UN has led the struggle against apartheid and colonialism, has pointed the spotlight on human rights abuses and set the agenda for meeting the terrible and great problems that face the global environment. The end of the cold war holds great hope now that the fundamental purpose of the UN, to establish an international rule of law, can finally be realized.

On United Nations Day, we join with the Secretary General of the UN, Perez de Cuellar, who said, “We must continue to draw inspiration from the ideals to which our Charter gave luminous expression. These ideas are not the intellectual fabrications of visionaries.

We are embedded in the hearts of men and women around the globe”.

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[Translation]

## SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

**Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides):** Mr. Speaker, since this is Small Businesses Week, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the past ten years, small businesses have generated exciting ideas and a host of innovative products and services, thus creating thousands of jobs and playing a major role in boosting the economy of this country.

More than ever before, Canadians have realized that entrepreneurship could be exciting and profitable and offer tremendous opportunities for personal enrichment and financial success.

The Small Businesses Loans Act is a federal initiative aimed at helping small businesses, either new or existing ones, to obtain medium-term loans from chartered banks and other designated lending organizations to finance capital improvements.

Under this legislation, the government is committed to reimbursing 85 per cent of the loan to the approved lender, should the borrower default on his payments. This guarantee applies to loans of up to \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 1989. More than 17,726 have been granted, representing a total of \$682 million.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON “LA FRANCOPHONIE”

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, recently, the Minister of Communications established an advisory committee on *la francophonie*.

Without wishing to reflect on the competence of the committee's 15 members, I fail to understand why the minister decided that only one Francophone from outside Quebec met his selection criteria and that no members of ethnic minorities qualified for this team of advisers.

Should this not be seen as an insult to Francophones outside Quebec and to new Canadians, including Haitians, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Africans, and so forth, all of whom make a substantial contribution to French culture? How could the government ignore this potential