

*S. O. 31*

Earlier this week a representative of Atomic Energy of Canada came to my office and presented a series of very impressive and well designed documents, which I have in my hand, explaining this very project.

My staff was told that these media briefings are part of a normal procedure. However I would like to object to such procedures, given that an environmental task force has been set up to independently assess the same project, which by the way has not even started yet.

I find it objectionable that a government department is jumping the gun, so to speak, and has started its own lobbying at taxpayers' expense. I would hope that the Minister of the Environment would want these environmental assessments to be conducted in a fair and independent manner.

Mr. Speaker, you have already ruled on a similar advertising scheme; perhaps you would like to examine this one as well.

\* \* \*

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, the August Supreme Court decision in CN-CP against Alberta Government Tel clearly found that the CRTC had jurisdiction over all telephone companies which participate in Telecom Canada, including the three prairie telephone companies.

The Railway Act amendments proposed yesterday do not change services; they do not change rates or affect ownership. The amendments do what the court said had to be done, that is, provide a consistent national regulatory structure under the CRTC.

The Minister of Communications said yesterday that it was his objective to preserve universal access to basic services at affordable prices while taking into account regional differences. He also said that he would ensure that all Canadians, particularly those in rural areas, would have access to quality services.

Residents of the rural prairies will expect that the minister will fulfil his commitment in ways that are fair and equitable.

**CANADA POST**

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, on October 10, Canada Post has, by way of letter, informed members of Parliament serving the northern regions of Canada including the Northwest Territories that a whopping, senseless 32 per cent increase in postal rates will be implemented following the 30-day notification requirement.

Canada Post is hereby sacrificing the welfare of those living in remote areas for the sake of profit making. The letter states: "Canada Post Corporation operates a business and as such cannot assume the cost of operating in a revenue losing situation".

Canada is a very large country, and each and every one of its citizens deserves equal treatment and has the right to a decent livelihood ensured by services such as Canada Post. It is clearly abandoning natives and northern residents.

Is it the government's intention to cut its deficit on the backs of those who can least afford it? What are you trying to do to the northern residents of Ontario and of northern Canada?

\* \* \*

**NATURAL GAS**

**Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday I was privileged to represent the government and participate in the official opening of the Schrader Creek compressor station owned and operated by the gas transmission division of Nova Corporation of Alberta. This station located in the Caroline area operates on three major pipelines delivering clean burning, efficient natural gas to market.

Nova has been recognized as a good corporate citizen and a good employer throughout Alberta. This station incorporates the latest in technology to improve efficiency of operation, safety for employees and the environment around the plant.

Nova is to be commended for making this investment in its employees health and safety and congratulated for its confidence in the economy of this country which is going to make this investment a very practical one for them and for the country.