

Interparliamentary Delegation Report

support to the idea of improving family reunification immigration, as suggested in recommendations 5 to 10, the Minister suggests that the new point system will allow for perhaps half of what might be asked for by the relatives. He does not say that exactly, but that is what he implies. The facts are the opposite, and the Minister should know that between 1982 and 1985 both family class and assisted class immigration declined. In 1986, if we project from the first half of the year, it will have declined more disastrously than in the years before. The new point system is a failure from the point of view of family reunification.

Secondly, Minister suggests that there might be some meetings between the Health and Welfare officials and Immigration officials, and the committee. In fact, that is only an extension of the stonewalling that Health and Welfare did for six months, from January to June. While we were studying the report that Parliament asked us to study, Health and Welfare refused, even at the request of the Chairman, to allow us access to the manual which provides the rules under which Health and Welfare have increasingly over the last few years rejected family members and assisted relatives. In fact, the Government itself in the spring in its report *towards equality*, page 28, tells the public that that manual is available on request. That is false. The manual was not available to the committee during that six months of study. The promise of consultation carries no conviction whatever on the part of those of us who have experience.

On the matter of the posts abroad, it is patently obvious that what the Minister says in reply to Recommendation 48 is not in accordance with the facts. The resources are not distributed according to the volume of applications, successful or unsuccessful. The refusal of the bureaucrats to budge from the positions they have adopted in the past several generations is the main hindrance to family reunification at present.

● (1520)

Finally, on the matter of the entrepreneurs, it is a fact, as was pointed out and reported by my colleague months ago to the committee, to the benefit of the Minister and his predecessor, that staff has been transferred. Notwithstanding all the remarks the Minister makes about priorities being observed according to statute, staff has been transferred away from family reunification. It is a fact that entrepreneurial applications take several times as much staff time as family applications do normally. He can pick one example here and one example there to match them off, but he knows that he is twisting the story by hair-splitting and by doing that. In fact entrepreneurs by definition, having hundreds of thousands of dollars and being business people, are accustomed to paying for the service they get, such as for a visa, while families, being mostly poor, cannot. The Minister has obscured that fact—

Mr. Speaker: I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

[Translation]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH LANGUAGE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 101, I have the honour to introduce the Fourth Report of the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians in both official languages.

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PETITIONS

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF POSTAL STATION—NORWOOD GROVE

Mr. Léo Duguay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House a petition signed by some 5 000 residents of my constituency who oppose Canada Post's decision to close down the Norwood Grove Station.

[English]

My constituents wish to express concern that the actions of Canada Post will substantially lower the quality and efficiency of postal service in the Norwood area.

CLOSING OF CN SHOPS IN MONCTON AND SALE TO CGE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 120 residents of the Province of New Brunswick who are concerned about the closing of the CN Rail shops in Moncton and their sale to General Electric.

They call upon the House to postpone the decision to close the shops until the workers have had an opportunity to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport.

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CANADA SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-224, an Act to protect and enhance the quality of drinking water in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, this Bill would provide opportunities for public involvement in the making of regulations to set maximum permissible levels for contaminants and other