

S.O. 21

Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) is talk about the commercial benefits of everything from marketing reactors to, believe it or not, marketing radioactive waste disposal.

It is about time the Government owned up to the fact that it is business as usual for the nuclear industry in Canada while, tragically, morally and ecologically superior energy alternatives are having their funding seriously cut back. Meanwhile we continue to waste our money on an unacceptable nuclear future.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

PUBLIC'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT SERVICE

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House once again to voice the concerns of many of my constituents regarding the claims made by Canada Post. For the most part, postal service is woefully inadequate. Not only is mail service slow across Canada, but it is very inefficient with local city and rural deliveries.

My constituents welcome the news that Canada Post is establishing a task force to eliminate unnecessary jobs within the corporation. We also hope this review will cover jobs at the executive level. Unless Canada Post can assure us of reasonable time for mail delivery, as well as an improvement of service generally, I call for a halt to the proposed rate increases, not only for mail deliveries but also the proposed increase in rental rates of post office boxes as well.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, in connection with the business seminar held recently in the riding of Drummond, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important piece of legislation that was adopted by our Government, and I am referring to the Small Businesses Loans Act, which will help thousands of Canadians to start or expand their own businesses. As a businessman myself, I am particularly interested in this legislation, because since 1982, all new jobs created in Canada were created by small businesses. Another fact is that 30 per cent of small businesses are owned by women. In 1961, the Progressive Conservative Government, led by the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker, adopted this legislation for the first time, and one of the first steps taken by our Government was to update the legislation and extend it until March 31, 1990.

In adopting this legislation, which deals with loans by financial institutions that are 85 per cent guaranteed by the Federal Government and are designed for businesses that provide goods and services, the Progressive Conservative Gov-

ernment has shown its commitment to small businesses and has helped to create an economic climate that is favourable to growth. The maximum interest rate on such loans is the chartered banks' preferred rate plus one, and borrowing terms are designed with small businesses in mind.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—UNION'S OPPOSITION TO ELECTRIC ARC TECHNOLOGY

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to address an issue of great concern to the people of my constituency. A month ago we read in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* that the federal and provincial Governments were very close to reaching an agreement on the second and final phase of the modernization program at Sydney Steel Corporation. We were told that the new cost-sharing agreement for the \$65 million project to replace SYSCO's outdated hearth would be concluded in a few weeks. Well, we are still waiting. It seems like we have been waiting forever.

The plan for the modernization of Sydney Steel was first put forward by a provincial Tory Government. The former federal Liberal Government provided up to \$96 million to help carry out renovations in the technological operations of Sydney Steel, while the present Government, with all its high-minded rhetoric about consultation with the provinces, has done nothing.

At issue is jobs, the jobs that will be lost if the federal Government presses ahead with its plans to install an electric arc furnace. Both the Conservative Premier of Nova Scotia and the steelworkers' union have ruled out electric arc technology on the grounds that it would reduce employment in the primary steel-making operations, the blast furnace and the coke ovens. The union in particular has noted that the federal Government's proposal would turn SYSCO's steel plant into a turn-key operation employing merely 500 workers. The steelworkers' union is pushing for a basic oxygen furnace as recommended in the original rehabilitation plan.

It is high time that the federal Government listened to the voices of those most directly concerned with the operations of Sydney Steel, the workers themselves.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

WORLD-WIDE VIOLATIONS BY GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, last night the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union gave Members of Parliament the opportunity to view *Harvest of Despair*, a