COMMONS DEBATES

S. O. 31

collective agreement between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers have entered the critical phase.

After 29 months of negotiations, several major points are still in dispute. If the bargaining process fails, the message from the members of the CUPW local in Val-d'Or on October 25 can be summed up like this: "The biggest problem facing postal employees is the employer's failure to comply with the terms of the collective agreement. That is why they call upon the Minister of Labour to include in this ad hoc legislation the obligation for Canada Post to comply to every term and condition of the collective agreement."

[English]

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, according to Employment and Immigration Canada, the vast majority of jobs by the end of this decade will require at least 12 to 15 years of education.

This year almost 4,000 eligible native students will be denied funding for post-secondary education by this government despite promises to the contrary. By 1995, in Ontario alone, only one out of every two qualified native students will be able to receive funding. Our native peoples have less education, one-half the national income and twice the unemployment rate of other Canadians.

The government's response to this has been to cut funding and tell us that it has been generous in the area of native education programs.

The money for these programs comes from the royalties off native lands. They are not asking for a free ride, just what they are entitled to.

We have just gone through the most severe native crisis in the history of our federation yet this government has learned nothing from it. If it was serious in dealing with native concerns, it would begin with a very simple premise; deliver on what was promised throughout the years.

I believe that education is a right and not a privilege, particularly for our natives. If we do not spend on education now, we will be funding welfare later.

SMALL BUSINESS

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, small business is the backbone of our economy. It represents 97 per cent of Canadian businesses, almost one-third of the private sector workforce, four out of five new jobs and annual sales of \$316 billion.

If we are to encourage small business to grow and prosper we must recognize the ever–increasing paper burden and financial hardships placed on this sector.

Employees have governments and unions to protect their interests but who protects the employer? Small businesses are required to deal effectively with employee and employer deductions, to collect taxes and statistical information and to submit same within a strict timeframe.

Small businesses want to continue to be successful in the marketplace, but they cannot and will not remain competitive if this drain on their resources continues to increase.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George-Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are calling on New Democrats to clean up legislative and budgetary disasters created by Liberals, Socred and Conservative governments.

The Ontario Liberal deficit of \$3 billion, the B.C. Socred deficit of \$2.5 billion and the Conservative deficit in Saskatchewan of over \$5 billion leaves New Democratic governments in these provinces with work to do in bringing in progress of people, not friends and insiders of Conservative administrations.

Canadians in Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon will benefit from a era of open and honest government, the style of government they will soon have at the federal level.

* *

[Translation]

TRIBUTE TO PAINTER ANDRÉ ROGER

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to point out the merit of a Quebec artist who was recently in the news for holding five records in the famous *Guinness Book of Records*. An