

S. O. 31

sary to put into the legislation very specifically the mandate of the particular agency.

The value of space research is inestimable because we really do not know how far it could go and how necessary it will be. But its value could be nullified entirely if it is taken over as a base for military research and military development rather than for research for peaceful and non-military purposes, as it was intended.

I recognize it as a partial commitment, but there is a commitment by this government to assist in star wars development. Many of our companies in Canada have accepted contracts related to the star wars project. That means there is already a suggestion that the space agency would assist in that development of the star wars structure in Canada.

Military one-upmanship leads to arms races, which deplete the resources of the world. We cannot allow the squandering of the brains, the talent and the materials to research that is attempting give one power of the world the upper hand militarily. We should not accept it.

Consequently, we obviously should not allow it to be the basis of an agency which can be used to develop the military might of a particular sector of the world. The mandate of the agency should have very specific wording about the aim of this agency. That is what this particular amendment intends to do.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being eleven o'clock, we shall now proceed to statements by Members. The Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis).

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, the goods and services tax will bring Canada considerable benefits. We plan to replace a tax system which has every defect imaginable.

The present tax favours imports, hurts exports, is narrowly based and an unreliable source of revenue.

The GST is modeled on a system in place in 48 countries. We studied the application of this system at length and adapted it to the needs and realities of Canadians.

Our objectives are clear: we want a strong economy, sound public finances and a fair and effective tax system.

The GST will achieve three major objectives: it will contribute to deficit reduction and ensure that we can continue to pay for programs and services to which Canadians are attached, it will ensure that Canada can continue to compete effectively on world markets and it will ensure the basic equity of our tax system.

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CANADA POST

M. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I am rising to object to the possible privatization of Canada Post.

Canada has had mail services since the Union Act of 1840. Since Upper and Lower Canada united to form what has become today's Central Canada, we have recognized the need to maintain a public mail system bringing the whole country together.

As a mainstay of the country, Canada Post Corporation offers other means of consolidating national unity and I think it is essential to preserve its integrity even though it might make us a little less competitive at times.

Even western countries such as France, Holland, Belgium, England and the United States recognized the basic value of unity. Even Margaret Thatcher, a champion of privatization, did not dare tamper with the post office.

The Hon. Minister should do the same.

[*English*]

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, on February 20 of this year, Photogravers and Electrotypers Limited of Rexdale, Ontario, locked out the Graphic Communication International Union members after demanding concessions at the bargaining table, claiming they were needed to compete under the free trade agreement. This plant normally produces the Sears catalogue but this year it is being printed in Salem, Illinois.