

● (1405)

I would encourage government agencies to review the gas export surplus test and adjust the test so that it will encourage exploration, development, and production of natural gas. Long-term contracts will meet the need for security of supply and keep those much needed jobs in Alberta. The adjacent border price test needs flexibility so that the situation can be monitored and action taken only if a problem arises.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE POSTAL RATE INCREASE

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to the House a letter from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to the Minister responsible for the Post Office (Mr. Côté). It reads:

It is most distressing that the politics of rumour and innuendo have become the hallmark of a new session of Parliament. In this environment Canadians are now being asked to ponder yet another postal rate increase, which at this point you have chosen not to deny.

The Prime Minister and the Government, with much fanfare, have trumpeted the values of hard work and entrepreneurship through both the Throne Speech and Small Business Week.

With one hand offered to small business in congratulation for creating 70 per cent of the jobs during this Government's mandate, does the other hand wait to slap another unfair burden upon the independent business people of Canada?

[Translation]

Introducing further postal increases is not the way to deal with Canada Post's deficit. The time has come to show the will, courage and vision that are necessary to deal with the many problems facing this Crown corporation.

You may be certain that the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses will vigorously oppose any increase in postal rates and support all Canadians who have had enough of paying more and more for less and less as far as our postal services are concerned.

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MULTICULTURALISM

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK ON FUTURE

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have good news and bad news about this Government's multiculturalism policy.

First, the good news. The Government, and more specifically the Prime Minister, has promised to increase the number of appointments of people from minority groups to sit on Government councils and commissions. Mr. Speaker, considerable progress has been made in the past two years. This

S.O. 21

Government has appointed more people from various ethnic groups than the former Administration.

And now, the bad news. What we have done is not enough. We must do more to reflect Canada's ethnic and linguistic reality, but I have every confidence in the Secretary of State and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism (Mr. Crombie). We are determined to reach our goal, which is the same equality for all Canadians.

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TAXATION

NON-PAYMENT OF TAX BY CORPORATIONS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, today, the grand prize for untaxed corporations goes to Sterling Trust.

This company paid no taxes at all in 1985 and enjoyed tax credits for the years 1979, 1983, 1984, with profits exceeding \$10 million. This was possible owing to lucrative tax rebates arising from measures introduced by the previous Liberal Government and to action taken by this Conservative Government.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

SPENDING DONE BY PREVIOUS LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, this morning's *Globe and Mail* editorial appears under the heading: "The money machine".

Two years after the defeat of the Liberal Party, the *Globe and Mail's* editorial writer urges us to remember that the Liberal Government spent more than any other Government for political and partisan purposes; that the Liberal Government abused the system; that it failed to observe Treasury Board guidelines; that the Government privately spent taxpayers' money; that under the Liberal Government, for the first 20 months the job creation program was administered exclusively by Ministers and a few MPs, with no consideration for objective eligibility criteria; that this profligate spending for partisan purposes was done with borrowed money.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal caucus here in the House took part in and approved these infamous expenditures. As the *Globe and Mail* says, Mr. Speaker, "They bear remembering".