

of most average citizens. The air fares are horrendous. We no longer have VIA Rail. Now the price of gasoline is getting to a point where it is no longer economical for people to go back and forth to work. Therefore, 230 people in my community have requested this government to look at the cost of gasoline in northern Ontario and reduce the taxes accordingly.

CANADA POST

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Madam Speaker, I have a petition here duly authorized under Standing Order 36 and signed mostly by constituents from the community of Dundurn. They point out that the recent actions by the government have been a direct attack on the rural way of life in Canada and those attacks include cuts to VIA Rail, abandoning the rail lines, neglect of the fishery, the forest, and agriculture, and particularly as far as their community is concerned, the closing of rural post offices. They call upon Parliament and the government to restore funding to VIA Rail and so on, but also to reverse this terrible stand that Canada Post has taken in closing down the rural post offices which are such a centre to rural life.

EDUCATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, in conformity with the rules and regulations of the House of Commons, I have a petition to present from students across Canada. There are over 4,000 signatures on these petitions which refer to the serious cuts that have been transferred to the provinces by the federal government, to the closures of employment centres, and most of all to the 3 per cent administrative fee on student loans. That is the one I referred to yesterday, Madam Speaker, where students have to pay cash up front before they get their loans. It makes a mockery out of competitiveness, the whole idea of a learning culture.

CANADA POST

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Madam Speaker, I am privileged and pleased to present a petition signed by some 1,100 residents of Gabriola Island, approximately half the adult population. They are complaining that actions of the government are a direct attack on the rural way of life, including cuts to VIA Rail service, abandonment of rail lines, neglect of fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and especially the erosion of rural

Supply

postal service, particularly the closure of small rural post offices.

They complain that Canada Post Corporation has not even bothered to talk to a single resident about their needs, and they urge, pray, and call upon Parliament to instruct Canada Post to cease its closures and privatization of rural post offices, and to maintain the post office on Gabriola Island.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Charles Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie) moved:

That, in view of the desperate financial cash flow crisis facing Canadian grains and oilseeds and horticultural producers in this transitional year to the new safety net programs, this House calls on the government to consider the advisability of providing, this summer, third line of defence cash assistance on an emergency basis so as to provide the same net level of support that would have been provided under the Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP) and the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA), had they been in place for the 1990-1991 crop year; and

That, in the spirit of House of Commons reform and in recognition of the clear and urgent need, the House does not consider this to be a question of confidence in the government.

Mr. Riis: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I simply would like to indicate to the House that according to the new practice, our agricultural critic will speak in the first slot of the New Democratic Party during the day. The second slot will be shared by the members for Essex—Windsor and Moose Jaw—Lake Centre, and the third