

Only through effective international co-operation and the joint efforts of scientists and experts from all countries, including Canada, will the consequences of this disaster be dealt with.

I join with many Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainians in calling for an early closure of the Chernobyl plant and a planned phasing out of other nuclear power plants. I particularly urge the Government of Canada to co-operate fully in international efforts to assist in responding to the Chernobyl tragedy.

As parliamentarians, let us join today in commemorating the memory of those who died following the Chernobyl explosion, and resolve to work together to ensure that we respond to the ecological crisis that is destroying the air, soil and water of this planet.

The Sea of Azov, the Black Sea and hundreds of lakes and rivers in the Ukraine and Canada are dying. We must take action now.

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MULTICULTURALISM

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn of Quebecor President Pierre Peladeau's apology for his comments diminishing the place of Jewish people and women in our society, comments which were insulting and personally offensive.

As a Jewish woman, proud of my heritage and the contribution that my people and women generally have made to Canada, I believe it is important to promote a more generous Canadian approach to judging people; not by their gender, ethnic origin or mother tongue, but by their hard work, commitment and achievements. Public scrutiny and even criticism should be based on one's actions, not one's origins.

Mr. Peladeau's statements were unhelpful toward our society's goal to reinforce in our young people the longstanding Canadian values of fairness, tolerance and equality of opportunity, rather than suggesting that, no matter how hard they try, their place will be determined not by their effort, but by their language or heritage.

Tolerant, fair-minded Canadians held out the hope that Mr. Peladeau might change his attitudes and were most pleased that he finally decided to show more

respect for the place of all peoples in Canada, particularly in the province of Quebec.

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[Translation]

POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, the report of the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations concerning the future of postal service in Canada was tabled in the House this week.

This report, with its 39 recommendations, is the result of more than six months of work by members of this committee, during which Canadians came to express to us their views and opinions on the future of our Canadian postal service.

Canadians want an efficient, fast, safe postal service that is accessible to all at a realistic, reasonable cost.

They no longer want Canadians' taxes being used to pay for deficits due to mismanagement.

After thirty years in which Canada Post piled deficit upon deficit, it is now making a profit by constantly improving its services to customers. The 97 per cent user satisfaction rate confirms that.

We are now on the right track and we have every reason to be very proud of it. I therefore hope that the government and members of this House will give this report a favorable reception, in the best interest of the future of our Canadian postal services.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance of the province of Quebec has been forced to take strong economic measures to deal with the growing recession that has been caused by the Tory's budget and the high interest rate policy.

Quebec has reduced personal taxes to stimulate the economy. It has embarked on a massive \$2 billion capital expenditure program to deal with rising unemployment, and it has been forced to accept a \$1.75 billion deficit.

The Government of Quebec realizes that a recession has already started, yet this government and the federal