

*Government Orders*

[English]

I have raised before the issue of Canada Post in my constituency. Since we are talking about labour relations, I will refer to the instance of the post office in Dalkeith, Ontario.

**An hon. member:** Where is that?

**Mr. Boudria:** My colleague asks where is Dalkeith. It is in Glengarry county in my riding.

In Dalkeith, Canada Post asked for tenders to deliver the rural mail. It had belonged to the same family for 25 years; the husband for 16 years and when he died the wife took over the run delivering the mail. A 64-year old widow bid to get her job back. She did not even ask for an increase. Do people have to bid to get their jobs back? Yes, they do now, because it says these people are technically contractors. They are not real employees. As far as I am concerned when you work some place for 25 years, regardless of what you call it, you are an employee, you work there and she worked there.

**An hon. member:** If you die your wife takes your job.

**Mr. Boudria:** The member across is raising an interesting point. I will come back to that in a minute.

This woman had been working there for eight years, a widow, 64 years old. Canada Post tendered her job and gave it to someone else to save \$1,500 a year. At the same time, Canada Post was buying corporate memberships to golf courses for its executives. At the same time it had a box at the stadium in Toronto.

**An hon. member:** How much does that box cost?

**Mr. Boudria:** It costs hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to pay for those kinds of things. Yet this constituent of mine lost her job for \$1,500, a job she had had for eight years. I can understand, and perhaps the member across will think in his own way: "Well, it is a contract. Perhaps this person after this length of time, if she was asking for an increase she should have bid against the other person". She was asking for nothing. She just wanted to continue the job she was doing. She lost it.

[Translation]

Canada Post also has a policy to convert post offices. Converting them does not mean closing them, Mr. Speaker. Well yes, it does mean closing them for all of us and all Canadians, except the so-called dignitaries in the tower of Babel at Canada Post. It calls it conversion. If you do not like a word, you change it. They do that pretty regularly at the Pentagon in the United States. They invent words to try to lull people about the atrocities that are going on.

So what is going on with Canada Post? It is converting post offices. It means closing them and giving a franchise to someone somewhere to sell stamps. That is conversion.

For example, I will tell you about the village of Fournier in Prescott county this time. Last week in the village of Fournier in Prescott county, Canada Post called all the people of that community to a meeting, a consultation—that is another word. It means that it informs the people that the post office is being closed. It is called a consultation. It is more polite than calling it a briefing or a notification. It is called a consultation. It consults the people. The people come in, sit down and are told how the post office will be closed.

**Mr. Harvard:** You are just told.

**Mr. Boudria:** As my colleague from Winnipeg St. James rightly said, a consultation means that they are just told, period.

So the people there listen and since it was a consultation, someone dared to ask Canada Post, "What will you do? You are closing the post office. What will you do? What will you offer us?" Well, it did not know; it was negotiating and trying to find a place to sell stamps. Someone at the meeting—you will understand that the ordinary people in my riding have a right to be puzzled—asked the Canada Post representative, "Would it not have been wiser to find a place for the stamp concession before closing the post office, instead of waiting till it was closed and then trying to find somewhere to sell stamps?" Surely there is something wrong in that approach. No, for Canada Post, it makes sense.