

publishers will be able to make it very clear why the only fair thing to do is greatly to revise the measures that are being put forward by this minister, measures that are going to cost the Canadian people a very great deal more out of their pockets year by year.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that these postal increases, and this latest 2 per cent tax that has just been announced in the budget are something for which the people of Canada will not stand. They are something they should not be asked to absorb at a time when costs are already far too high. They are the result of the gross mismanagement of our financial affairs that has been perpetrated on the people of this country by the government.

**Mr. Kierans:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might be permitted a few preliminary remarks before addressing myself to the first clause that is before the committee. During the last four days hon. members have posed a number of questions that I think could be answered very quickly.

Before doing this, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make two points. The hon. member for Kootenay West asked how this legislation is going to affect postal employees. I think I can give a better answer by reading a telegram I received this morning: It says:

• (8:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Best wishes for the passing of your bill. The post office must be operated on a business-like and economic basis. Let us hope that the study on the crown agency proposal is speeded up.

[English]

The telegram was signed by someone well known to all Canadians, W. L. Houle, President National du Syndicat des Postiers du Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Kierans:** Those who work for the post office, including all union employees, have made known how they feel about this bill.

I wish to talk about definitions. One hon. member argued, as did the press, that the deficit on second class mail is a subsidy. Some said that I called it a subsidy to the publishing industry. In reply I wish to quote from Webster's dictionary, where a subsidy is defined as—

—a grant of funds or property from a government, as of the state or a municipal corporation, to a private person or company to assist in the establishment or support of an enterprise deemed

### Post Office Act

advantageous to the public;... A subsidy may be a simple gift or may consist in the payment of an amount in excess of the usual charges in establishing or maintaining a service,—

The example given is, carrying the mails.

**An hon. Member:** Tell us about *Time* magazine.

**Mr. Kierans:** The hon. member for Hillsborough asked about benefits to be gained from expanded all-up services. I am glad he asked that question, because the answer surprised me also, as I am sure it will surprise the hon. member. The extension of all-up service to first class mail over 8 ounces will result in an additional 2.5 million ton miles being carried.

The hon. member for Edmonton West asked why urban dwellers should not be entitled to deliveries on Saturday, in light of our decision to continue with Saturday service on rural routes. It must be kept in mind that the rural post office is almost a post office on wheels. The patron receives his mail from it and posts his letter in the rural mail box. From the carrier he buys stamps or money orders. If the route does not operate on Saturday, the rural route patron has no service whatsoever. Generally speaking, it is advantageous to maintain such service, since there is no source other than the mobile post office from which he can obtain newspapers, an important point to consider.

The urban dweller on the other hand has access to sub post offices on Saturday. If he wishes to purchase stamps or money orders, he can do so. If it is absolutely necessary, as might be the case with a business, lock boxes may be rented as an aid to delivery. Also, the urban dweller may receive newspapers from a newspaper carrier boy, or from a store. Consequently, the curtailment of service in urban centres does not inconvenience the urban dweller nearly to the same extent that a curtailment would inconvenience the rural dweller.

The hon. member for Hillsborough asked about the imbalance of newspaper and periodical traffic between this country and the United States. The Post Office Department keeps records of the mailing of newspapers, as does the United States post office. Consequently there is no problem in arriving at the exact number of copies of publications which are addressed to either country. A check is kept by both administrations.

The hon. member for Hillsborough also asked a question about sorting of mail on rural routes. It has never been contemplated