

*Time Allocation*

more directly accountable to the House of Commons than they are at present.

I do not understand, try as I may, the attitude of the Hon. Member for Joliette. I am just as anxious as he is to settle the issue and to move amendments if I want to or if my constituents ask me to. I am also eager to have it thoroughly considered. For the information of all Canadians, it should be pointed out that the study of all bills in committee, even if it cannot be seen by Canadians on television as are our proceedings, is important work and is done well. I would like to emphasize also the work done by the members opposite in the various committees, either by the NDP members or the Progressive Conservative members, the work done by our assistants, the research offices of each caucus which provide exceptional support to the members sitting on those committees. And one has to have spent many hours in committee to realize how at this point in time, the Canadian people can contribute under the constitution to the drawing up of bills and laws governing our country. I am proud of having been able to sit on those committees and attend regularly. I am also proud to tell Canadians this always goes on with the enthusiastic cooperation of Hon. Members from all parties, from both sides of the House.

And here is my heartfelt comment at this point, Mr. Speaker: Let us once and for all tell Canadians the truth about our work as members of Parliament, our ways of working. Let us tell them that legislation is referred to Committee because the majority of the work, is done in committee. It is the hidden part people do not see, because television is not there, but it is just the same open to the public and the press. There is something else to be said, for the benefit of Hon. Members opposite. We agree with the Government that one more day of in-House discussion of that bill is enough at this stage. The legislation should be referred to Committee as soon as possible, in order that as soon as possible Hon. Members, whatever their political affiliation, can go through that process of closer scrutiny of the way our Canadian Crown Corporations are managed, because they play such a major role in our everyday lives in Canada.

● (1650)

[English]

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine):** Mr. Speaker, I was very interested to hear the comments of the Hon. Member for Portneuf (Mr. Gimaiel) with regard to this Bill and to hear him say that the Government will bring in amendments in committee. We want to see the amendments now. We have never heard of any proposal to bring in amendments at the committee stage. We want to see them now because this Bill is only window-dressing with no real substance at all.

Who in his right mind would trust the Government, especially the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) whose word means nothing? The House will recall the time prior to

the last election when he was asked what he would do with interest rates. He said then that he would resign if interest rates were not brought down. Interest rates went up to 21 per cent. Did the President of the Treasury Board resign? Of course not.

I do not trust him. I do not trust him when he says that he really means to go after Crown corporations with this Bill. It is only window-dressing so that the Government can cover up. Who would trust the Government with anything? We want all the proposals defined now, not at committee.

Let us review what is happening with Canada Post Corporation. Dozens of Quebec businesses are giving the stamp of approval to the United States postal service which provides quicker service at lower cost. Truck loads of mail are going daily from Canada to the United States. Those businesses want to mail their letters from the United States. Furthermore, Canada Post is talking about pushing the postal rates up. If the current rates are driving mail out of the country by the truck loads, what will happen when the rates are raised? The Auditor General should immediately find out what is happening with Canada Post.

Approximately a week ago I raised questions with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ouellet) who is responsible for Canada Post. I asked him about some very serious problems in Canada Post. For instance, it has been buying sorting equipment at a cost of \$750,000. The corporation undertook to install a software patch. The patch was removed six weeks after its installation, and an internal analysis that led to the reversal indicated a drop in productivity. It was inefficient because of excessive handling and delays. The corporation had to disconnect this \$750,000 piece of machinery.

I also asked the Minister of Labour to check into the reason why we are getting reports about trailers full of mail sitting on Canada Post lots. As many as 54 tractor trailers have been forgotten for up to and including six weeks. I asked the Minister to look into this situation. I received a smart alec answer from him, asking what I am doing as a critic in the Party. He said that he would pass the information on. He showed no interest at all in this mismanagement at Canada Post. It is just evidence of the attitude of the Liberal Government. If I had been in the Minister's position, I would have thanked the Member who brought this to my attention and would have taken immediate action to bring answers back to the House. If he had done that, he would have been sincere. But I just received a smart alec answer that he will pass it on or perhaps look into it. That is why we do not trust the Government's legislation. Canadians have no reason to trust the Government with respect to anything that is taking place in Crown corporations.

For instance, we see the problems with de Havilland. We are very concerned about its management. The Government waits until there is a total disaster before it moves in to determine what is going on there. However, we do not hear anything about these problems; we only hear that the people who are mismanaging the business are getting bonuses.