

Government Orders

Mail from Prince Edward Island to places elsewhere in Canada or the U.S. now receives a Halifax postmark. Imagine receiving a piece of literature from the tourism department of Prince Edward Island with a big Halifax, Nova Scotia postmark. It is an insult to islanders. It is as if we do not exist. This should not be tolerated.

I would also like to mention a very special case in my riding of Cardigan where it has been impossible to get any action from Canada Post. In a part of Webster's Corner, the people wanted the route extended down the road because a number of people had moved into this area. Canada Post said no but gave the people a roadside lockbox which they said was good enough for them. The box constantly fell over in the mud.

I asked Canada Post, since it would not do any more, to put a concrete slab under the box. Canada Post said no. The people on the road to Webster's Corner have to deal with a box that falls over in the mud in the spring and freezes in the winter. It is very difficult as a member of Parliament to go to Webster's Corner and describe the efficiencies of Canada Post. This is a problem.

The legislation proposes to sell up to 10 per cent of the value of Canada Post to postal employees. The government says the measure is meant to improve employee performance by giving them a stake in the company. In any dealings I have had with business, you have to satisfy your customers too. This is one fact that seems to be eliminated. The theory goes that if you own something you will take better care of it.

The government believes that improving morale will help services to Canadians. I believe the government has this backwards. If the government wants to improve the labour relations at Canada Post, it should really start by improving the services to the customers, to the Canadians they are actually working for.

The only thing this government is concerned about is turning the post office into a profit-making machine and making it more attractive to sell. That is the Conservatives true objective, to sell the post office. The government has done its level best to destroy almost every important national institution. It sold Air Canada, which is now run by a couple of Americans; Petro-Canada; it almost destroyed VIA Rail by eliminating routes especially in Atlantic Canada. It certainly does not exist very much where I live. It cut the budget of the CBC, forcing the corporation to shut down television stations and to cancel very popular programs like *Land and Sea*; and now the government has taken aim at the post office.

Over the last little while we have seen government-sponsored ads on how great it is to be a Canadian and how we should concentrate on the things that keep us together. The very purpose of the post office is letting Canadians communicate. In rural Canada the post office is the only place where people see the Canadian flag. We need to see the Canadian flag more and I think that rural Canadians wish to feel a sense of being Canadian. Rural Canadians are Canadians as well as urban Canadians and central Canadians.

I just hope, and I call upon the government, to not sell the post office. It is an important institution. It is important to Canadians and it is important to this country.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that messages have been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed the following bills without amendment: Bill C-59, an act to amend the National Parks Act; Bill C-67, an act to suspend the operation of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act;

[Translation]

Bill C-71, an act to amend the Criminal Records Act and other acts in consequence thereof; and Bill C-84, an act to amend the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Pension Act and to amend other acts in consequence thereof.

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[English]

ROYAL ASSENT

Madam Deputy Speaker: Before recognizing the hon. member, I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Rideau Hall
Ottawa

June 18, 1992

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Peter deC. Cory, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 18th day of June, 1992, at 4.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

Yours Sincerely,

Judith A. LaRocque
Secretary to the Governor General