

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

investigate the whole subject of the printed word and related questions in this country. His own government appointed the O'Leary Royal Commission, but it did not a single thing about this situation.

The hon. member said four papers had folded in one class or another since January. To be fair, he might have compared this figure with the number which folded in the same period last year. Were there more or less? He cited the case of the poor weekly newspaper which was obliged to increase its subscription rates. I feel sorry it had to do this; I hope it did not lose any of its subscribers; I hope its readers found that the newspapers was worth paying the additional amount. One thing to which I do not subscribe, particularly in the area of weekly newspapers, is the view that the people of Canada, the general taxpayer who half the time does not know what he is paying for, should still continue, even after this increase, to pay for nearly 87 per cent—the actual figure is 86.8

per cent—of the cost of distributing these weekly newspapers. In other words, much as they are complaining they are still paying only a fraction over 13 per cent of the actual cost.

I am not proud to have been the cause of any weekly newspapers going out of business but I would be much less proud if I did nothing about the problems confronting the Post Office and let this country face a deficit this year of \$130 million or a deficit in 1974-75 of \$500 million. I would not be proud to be responsible for such a situation arising as a result of my negligence, or laziness, or desire to sit in the house late in the evening to answer such questions as have been posed tonight. I would be less than proud, because that \$500 million deficit in 1974-75 would mean an increase in taxes or a decline in other government services.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.26 p.m.
