

Private Members' Business

To give an example, I recently learned that any mail posted in Victoria on Friday or Saturday is not processed in our community. Oh, no. It is sent over to Vancouver for processing and then sent back to Victoria. We cannot even have next day delivery in our own community. This is a downsizing in service and a downsizing in jobs to the detriment of service in our community.

This is an issue that I, like the member who put forward this motion, get complaints about from angry constituents. It is particularly so in British Columbia where it is our forests that are being chopped down to provide this junk that arrives in our post office boxes.

There are alternatives. Sixty per cent of the revenue of Canada Post flows from this junk mail. This government could have a vision such as the one put forward by my colleague, the member for The Battlefords—Meadow Lake when in April 1990 he put forward a 55-page vision of Canada Post's new role in Canadian society for generating more revenue. That means more service to Canadians and not less service, which is the way this government is acting.

• (1720)

He put forward some suggestions. To ensure that the corporation moves ahead with the development of more service to Canadians we recommend that additional new direction outlets be provided, new retail products be sold at the wickets throughout consumer's post and financial services offered at all counters, especially in rural and remote areas.

Those of us who represent rural areas of Canada are reminded frequently by constituents in those areas about the downgrading in service in Canada Post and how they feel like second class citizens because of the poor service Canada Post provides.

Offering packaging and wrapping services at postal stations and post offices is another service that could be provided by Canada Post. It could introduce electronic mail services, expand the contracted in-parcel distribution system and extend the hours of federal post offices.

The motion before us is an important motion. We support it as a means of encouraging Canada Post to take one little baby step to stop pillaging our forests to provide junk in our mail boxes. If that is not a wacko idea, I do not know what is.

It is only the beginning. I invite all the people who are watching today and listening to this to write to the New Democrats to find out about their vision of how Canada Post could not only improve service to Canadian consumers but also increase the revenues to Canada Post so that it could be self-sufficient and really serve the needs of Canadians.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): There being no further members rising for debate, the time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

Mr. Harb: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

It has been established with the associate House leader, the House leader for the Official Opposition, the House leader for the NDP and all the Independents in this House, after consultation on all sides of the House, there is agreement to adopt at this point in our proceedings my private members' bill, Bill C-371, an act respecting a national child day, at all stages, including Committee of the Whole, without debate.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent to consider the request made by the hon. member for Ottawa Centre?

[*English*]

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, this is a very awkward moment for me.

I have been working with the hon. member for Ottawa Centre, as has my colleague, the parliamentary secretary, on this in good faith for a long time. No one has displayed more good faith than the hon. member for Ottawa Centre. He has a sincere desire to see this motion passed and so does every member of this House, I think.

The difficulty I have is this. I am given to understand that there has not been a formal consultation on this particular matter. I thought there had been until just a few minutes ago. I have to say to my friend and to the House that until that consultation takes place I cannot give the consent that he is seeking.