

Postal Service Policies

pened. I believe in this case the government is attempting to impose guidelines on postal workers who are not in a position to do much about it other than use their economic strength. Their position is their business, and how they settle this dispute is also their business.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Francis): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. The hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle).

Mr. Perrault: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) for his applause. I had not intended to speak on this rather stupid motion which is before the House, but in view of the brutal attacks made upon the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans), especially by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), I feel I should say some things that have been on my mind for a long time concerning this very serious problem and the very serious attacks the members of the opposition are making, not against this government and not particularly against the Postmaster General but against the consumers of Canada. This is one thing which has always bothered me in this House of Commons as an amateur who has not been on this side long enough to lose my amateur status, as have many others. Most of the opposition is not directed against anybody but the consumers of the country. When we were elected and took on the job, we agreed that there should be some fiscal responsibility here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: Perhaps fiscal responsibility is different in some areas. For instance, I know that the hon. member for Hillsborough requires seven other members along with him in this Parliament to represent an area with a population only slightly less than that of my riding, which I alone represent. It costs eight times as much money for them to be here than it does for me to be here. So when we speak about fiscal responsibility, possibly we are not very aware of what fiscal responsibility really is or should be.

Let us take a look at what really is going on. There is a reorganization of the postal system. This is a service to Canada. It is a reorganization that is long overdue. I have been told by people who ought to know that this service has been used by all parties in

[Mr. Skoberg.]

the House of Commons over the years as a kind of football. Of course, the mail must get through. The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg) said he abhorred anybody who has anything to do with unions and bargaining agreements saying anything here about the negotiations. He said that this is not the place for us to be discussing this question. In my opinion this resolution is certainly out of place. Then the hon. member for Moose Jaw proceeded to take ten minutes in this House of Commons talking about bargaining at a very delicate time in labour-management relations. I know the opposition have been dragged kicking and struggling into the twentieth century and that they speak of change for the sake of change. But they do not really believe in change. I have never heard in this House a positive approach to change, to organized change, to progressive change or to improvements in organization such as the Postmaster General has had the courage to attempt in Canada this year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: I think we are most fortunate to have the services of the Postmaster General, a man who has the courage to stand up and be heard. Those members of the opposition who think this gentleman is not being heard should get out into the Maritimes, into western Canada and across the country, because he is being heard. We do not like to be inconvenienced. We do not like to have to wait an extra day for our mail. But when the chips are down and when a proper explanation is given, the people understand the situation and know that in order for Canada to progress there must be change and reorganization. This is what is taking place at the present time.

Mr. Dinsdale: Have you not heard of the western protest?

Mr. Pringle: I have not heard of it. There is no such thing as a western protest. I think the time has come to suggest to our hon. friends opposite that we could use a little help. The reorganization program, contrary to the statement made by the hon. member for Moose Jaw, is in effect and has been established by a large number of postal employees, the people who are in charge of the various departments of the Post Office of Canada. I am not suggesting there has been a great deal of input from the postal carriers who walk the routes, but I am sure there has been some. I know there has been some in my area. So