

*Government Organization*

already, and he should not be afraid of taking this one. In fact, as far as the increase in postal rates is concerned, he was not afraid to assume his responsibilities, even though he knew it would increase the cost of living, decrease the buying power of the citizens and deteriorate the economic situation for everyone in Canada.

At that time, he believed it was a good step to take and he was not afraid to take it. Therefore he should not be afraid to impose compulsory arbitration now, as the great moral law which would start the economic system running and would maintain it in a state of balance. Then, the government must at all costs take its responsibilities.

I have not looked fully into the situation, but it seems to me it is time to establish rules which will ensure a certain degree of balance in the economy. As long as there are soulless, ambitious men, prepared to do wilful damage and to break everything, we will have to enact laws to bring them back to reason. Instead of destroying, we should build. Therefore, let us stop those who destroy Mr. Chairman.

I should like to speak briefly about my riding. I never had the opportunity to tell the minister what is going on in my riding and what is needed there.

Some things have been done in the past, but the minister did not hesitate to make cutbacks. In my hometown, for instance, we had been promised home delivery service three years ago, and the municipality was made to spend money under the pretext that the government would start the service. But this Postmaster General applied the axe to the project, and told us that it was no longer time to think about letter carrier service. He told us the plan had been postponed. Now, municipal authorities are asking for a home delivery service, since they have spent several thousand dollars to install street signs and to number houses and buildings.

In addition, three years ago, the government said that the Department of Public Works would build five post offices in the Compton riding. Two have been built and the construction of the other three was postponed by the Postmaster General under the pretext of saving. Since the situation has changed and winter works have been cancelled, he finds it impossible to build those small post offices.

● (3:40 p.m.)

The government bought some lots on which it intended to build post offices; however, it

[Mr. Latulippe.]

decided later on not to proceed with the construction. Needless to say that the citizens living in the parishes where the post offices were to be built are quite disappointed.

Since the government had promised to have the buildings erected three years ago and the project, involving three small post offices only, has been postponed for three years, I feel that the government should at least make an effort to fulfil some of the minor promises it made in my area. I receive lots of correspondence from these municipal authorities; they keep asking me why construction is being delayed, why I do not urge the government to introduce legislation that would benefit my constituency. Since I am criticized for allegedly doing nothing to correct the situation, I wish to call the minister's attention to it. If the minister can correct it—I do not ask him the impossible—we would appreciate it, for in our constituency we pay taxes as in all the others, and the federal government has never done much for us. In fact, we have asked for all kinds of assistance, in order to improve the tourist trade; but nothing was done and all those projects fell through.

I would therefore ask the minister to consider the situation and, if possible, to build those two small post offices which would render a great service to the population.

Mr. Chairman, I would have lots of things to say in connection with that bill, but I do not wish to extend the debate. Once again, before concluding, I would ask the government and the opposition to assume their responsibilities, and to put some order in our mail service, since it is the most important of all. Once there was no better organized department than the Post Office Department but now it is far from operating satisfactorily.

In my opinion, that unbalance should not exist and the only way to settle the situation would be to resort to compulsory arbitration. We are here to represent the people of Canada and to take our responsibilities. As the hon. member for Trois-Rivières said earlier, if there is someone who should take responsibilities and do something to cope with this situation, it is the government.

A while ago, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières stated that the economic situation is critical not only in Canada but throughout the world, that all the countries are faced with the same insuperable economic conditions, that we are facing a terrible economic crisis and that we must absolutely tighten our belt.