

Government Orders

you can open those doors. You have to carry a little can of de-icer with you to get into your mailbox.

I want to get back to the real issue about Canada Post. Canadians want equality of service, quality service, affordability and reliability. That is what Canadians expect of their Crown corporation. We have not received that. In fact the prices of stamps and other services that are charged by Canada Post do not equate the services we now get.

• (1350)

There is another serious issue that I think needs to be addressed. If the government and the executives and management of Canada Post are really serious about improving service to Canadians and making it more reliable and affordable, they ought to learn how to work with their employees and not against them. While they may say they are going to offer employees the opportunity to purchase shares because they are really committed to working with their employees, we all know the problems with Canada Post and its labour relations.

There are 100,000 grievances now under way within the system. That does not indicate that things are nice and cosy there. The problems with productivity and providing and delivering a good service to Canadians mean there needs to be mutual respect between management and labour, to work together toward the common goal. That common goal is to serve Canadians and give them the postal service they have bought and paid for through their taxes, user fees and cost of stamps. The management of Canada Post should devote its true attention to working with the employees toward the same goals. I am not sure it has done that. In fact, I think it has done the reverse.

Great productivity can be achieved in this corporation if it is prepared to work with its employees. They should be given the opportunity to give their good ideas on how to improve the service and deliver the service equally across the country. I am sure the employees are prepared to work with Canada Post if they are given the relationship.

Unfortunately in my area of London, Ontario, in the past four years since I have been the member for London East, I have had a number of complaints about labour-management difficulties that have been very hard to

handle. There was a suicide directly related to how management deals with employees who have been injured on the job and how they are treated in terms of wanting to come back to work at Canada Post.

I had hoped the government would have taken the issue of Canada Post a little more seriously than to produce a four-page scam on how to involve the employees of Canada Post in the running of the Crown corporation named Canada Post. The truth of the matter is that this is not what this bill talks about at all. We should be getting back to the real issue of Canada Post, which is to deliver reliable, quality, affordable and equal service across this country. The government is playing with smoke and mirrors with the employees as well as Canadians by saying this is the answer to all our problems and ills with Canada Post.

I think it is a lost opportunity by the government to deal with the real issues and listen to the parliamentary committee that dealt with Canada Post and heard from Canadians across the country, including small businesses, which want improvements to a Crown corporation they do not want privatized. They want Canada Post to remain Canada Post, a Crown corporation. I am sure people will really see this bill for what it is. It is really preparing Canada Post for eventual privatization. It will be put into the hands of so-called business people who will not care about what kind of service rural Canada, urban Canada and small town Canada gets.

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I think you will find consent for the following motion:

That the House continue to sit today beyond the hour of daily adjournment but no later than 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9, for the consideration of Bill C-114, until all questions necessary to dispose of the second reading stage of the said bill are disposed of, provided that no dilatory motion or quorum calls shall be deemed receivable during the extended sitting and that any requested division shall be deferred until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, that at the end of debate on second reading of Bill C-114, the House shall stand adjourned until Tuesday, March 9, at 10 a.m.

• (1355)

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Does the parliamentary secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?