

Later on today, if we come back to this debate, I would like to talk about some of the changes that have evolved in Canada Post. We have seen communities like Brandon, Manitoba losing its only post office and being told: "Well you can go off to these six commercial centres and pick up your mail".

When I was in Brandon, I think it was about a month and a half ago, I talked to some of the people of that community.

• (1320)

They did not know where these new commercial outlets were. They all knew where their federal government building was. They all knew where their post office was. They did not know where all these little commercial outlets were. Why should they?

They had a government post office. They knew where it was, and they had been using that for many, many years. They were completely happy with that situation. We had Canada Post in front of the House of Commons committee and we asked why it did not give very much warning to the people of Brandon, or to the workers in Brandon.

It said: "The protocol we signed only dealt with small, rural post offices. When we close a post office, the only government post office in a large centre, we do not have to give much notice".

It can go to a city council meeting as it did in Brandon and say: "In six weeks, your post office is closing". It can go to those employees and say: "In six weeks you are no longer working where you used to, you are now with some sorting outfit somewhere on the outskirts of town. I am sorry this means that you are no longer working the day shift. You are going to have to work night shift. We do not have to give warning. We do not have to be considerate of the years that you worked for us. We do not have to be considerate about what this means for your personal life".

There are many, many problems in Canada Post. There is an attitude problem in management. There is a situation there which does not respect the wants of the community. There is a situation there in which there is pretence by Canada Post that the public is after something when we know that the exact opposite is the case, that the public does not want what Canada Post is forcing on it.

Government Orders

There is a real attitude problem by Canada Post management. We cannot resolve that in this legislation, so I am not going to spend the time I would normally on that particular aspect, but I think that there are things that we can do as we deal with the legislation in front of us. We can make the legislation fairer.

We can talk to both parties and be sure that we do all we can to prevent a postal strike. We should not be forced into quick passage of this legislation until we have had an actual chance to hear from those people who will be affected and to make sure we put in whatever amendments are necessary to make the legislation fairer and more just, not only for the public but also for the employees who work for our Crown corporation.

[*Translation*]

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Before resuming debate, I would like to announce the Chair's decision on the amendment moved by the hon. member for Kenora—Rainy River. The amendment is not in order, for three reasons: On second reading, the House is asked to vote on the principle of the legislation, and I may refer you to *Beauchesne's Sixth Edition*, paragraph 659, and I quote:

The second reading is the most important stage through which the bill is required to pass; for its whole principle is then at issue and is affirmed or denied by a vote of the House.

It is not regular on this occasion, however, to discuss in detail the clauses of the bill.

Second, at this stage, the amendments cannot deal with the provisions of the bill nor anticipate amendments which may be moved in committee. I may refer you again to the same edition of *Beauchesne's*, paragraph 662:

Nor may such an amendment deal with the provisions of the bill upon which it is moved, nor anticipate amendments thereto which may be moved in committee, nor attach conditions to the second reading of the bill.

And for the information of hon. members, I may recall paragraph 666, in the same edition of *Beauchesne's*:

666. There are three types of amendments that may be proposed at the second reading of a bill. These are:

1. the hoist (eg. three months, six months).
2. the reasoned amendment.
3. the referral of the subject-matter to a committee.