

*Post Office Act*

*Chronicle Telegraph*, we have had no publicity from it. Let us take the *Montreal Gazette* for instance. What do we get from it? We speak every day in this house, and we never see the shadow of a line in this newspaper. The *Montreal newspaper La Presse* gives us zero multiplied by a million, which equals a million of nothing zero. This is what we get from the *Montreal La Presse*.

These are the people who want to supply information? What information do they supply? What facts does the *Montreal La Presse* report on the eastern townships, the area in the vicinity of Montreal and Montreal itself? They report what they feel like reporting.

The parliamentary correspondents are not responsible for that, they only write the articles. The Canadian press gives the news, but the potentates of Canadian journalism decide what is to be published and what is to be omitted in the newspapers. They overlook Social Credit, and systematically: yet, they have the nerve to ask us to fight for their interests when they are up against a problem of their own doing.

• (3:30 p.m.)

The minister tells them there may be increases, and they feel their rights are being encroached upon. They feel that democracy is being threatened because they are asked to pay their share. But I say this to them: You have been fighting for 30, 40 or 50 years to keep a majority government in power. During the election campaign, we heard: Elect a majority government, that Canada may progress. We have a majority government and look how the newspapers are treated today by this majority government. If we had a minority government and if we held the balance of power which we requested, this bill would not be before the house today.

When the former Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) introduced in the house a bill raising postal rates, the bill was defeated and the rate of delivery for letters and mail was not increased. Even though the government was defeated the mail service was not stopped. No. How did we continue to provide it?

Today, however, the hon. minister says: If there is no increase, we will not be able to continue providing mail service to the Canadian people. This is nonsense, a lie, and the minister knows that it is possible to find money elsewhere than in the pockets of the Canadian people to continue to improve the Canadian postal service.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Mr. Speaker, personally, I have nothing against newspapers. No. All I ask them is to be objective, honest, unprejudiced, and truthful. It is simple. We do not ask them to flatter us, the Ralliement Cr ditiste. Let them only be fair to us and let them stop blowing bubbles for the government, as they started to do before the election.

And let newspapers say: Is this the just society promised by the Prime Minister? Mr. Speaker, we will hear all about it tonight. Yes, tonight. We will hear the budget being read, and we will have a foretaste of the just society, and tomorrow morning that will be published in the newspapers.

Canadian newspapers, *Le Soleil*, *La Presse* and all the others will say that, due to unusual circumstances and a monetary deficit, the government is forced to raise taxes. The Postmaster General gave the same reason when introducing Bill No. C-116.

Mr. Speaker, we already know the answer. As for the honorable minister, he knows how to solve the problem. He told us yesterday that there was only one solution to the problem: raise taxes and get the money from the taxpayer's pockets. However, the honorable minister knows that the majority of the people in his riding cannot afford to pay more taxes than they do now. In order to be elected, the minister never said that he would increase the postal rates. He would never say so before the election, only after, here, in the house. Those people say one thing at election time and another thing after. And we legislate and administer in such a way as to conceal the facts from the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, we shall not endorse the bill. Certainly not. Not because we have any affection for those newspapers, but because we want to safeguard democracy in Canada and prevent the small from being swallowed up by the big.

We also take the defence of weeklies which will bear the consequences of this legislation since, as I was saying, they do not get national advertising as easily as the dailies I mentioned earlier, namely *Le Soleil*, *La Presse*, *The Montreal Star*, *The Gazette*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Vancouver Sun* or *Le Patriote du Manitoba*.

Mr. Speaker, we will support the amendment of the Conservative party asking that the bill be referred to a committee for further consideration, but not because we are very infatuated with the Conservatives. Absolutely not. We know that if the Conservatives were sitting opposite, they would not do better but