

*Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987*

[English]

**Mr. Blaikie:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member told a story which well illustrates the master plan behind a lot of the initiatives and legislation the Government has brought forward. The story he told was that of the community in his riding where people were given an address of a town other than the one they live in because of some Post Office machinations which would make it possible to use non-union labour.

● (1630)

Since 1984 there has been a move afoot to eliminate well-paid working people, to create a society with two levels of Canadians; an elite group of very well paid professionals and others, and a much larger group at the bottom which will be competing for the available jobs in this anti-union, free trade regulated environment. We will see the elimination of that portion of the middle class made up of well-paid working Canadians who constitute the vast majority of the riding which I represent. They are on the hit list. They will be eliminated in the evolving economic agenda of the Progressive Conservative Government.

We will see in this country a process which is much more accelerated in the United States, that is, the elimination of what we would call in a general and, I admit, inaccurate sort of way, the middle class. The Government must remember what Aristotle said about the middle class. He said that the larger the middle class the less likely there is to be a revolution.

Through this kind of legislation and other initiatives we are creating in Canada the potential for never-ending conflict, not only among working Canadians as they cut each other's throats for jobs which do not pay as well as they used to, but between the two groups of Canadians of which I have spoken, with this legislation as it interacts with all the other things the Government has done.

That is very regrettable because one of the things which characterizes Canada more than any other western nation is the group in the middle, whether they be well-paid postal clerks, teachers or whatever, who make up the support group for many of the things which are uniquely Canadian, our medicare and other social programs which we have managed to build since 1945. All of that will be at stake in the restructuring of our economy and the relationships between labour and management, government and its employees, and Canada and the United States which the Government is so set on doing.

**Mr. Boudria:** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for the excellent points he raised in his intervention. I would like to correct the record by saying that from post office to post office in Navan and Orleans is eight miles rather than eight kilometres. It is even worse than I had indicated earlier.

There has been a tremendous inconvenience imposed on the people of that area. Imagine someone saying, "That letter I

sent you the other day says that I live in Navan, but don't go there to find me because I actually live in Orleans. It is just that the Post Office has an unusual, convoluted way of addressing us. We live in Orleans but are supposed to pretend that we live elsewhere".

I wrote a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post (Mr. Andre) and he wrote back to me about a year and a half ago, after a four-month delay, and explained to me how the people who live in Orleans but are supposed to pretend they live in Navan, according to Canada Post, are supposed to address their envelopes. They are supposed to indicate their name and their street and then "Navan (Orleans)" and end with the postal code.

Would you, Madam Speaker, indicate your address as "Ottawa (Gatineau)"? Surely not. That is ridiculous. In fact, Ottawa and Gatineau are closer than are Navan and Orleans. That is an indication of the unusual and inappropriate activity which Canada Post is engaging in to try to save a few dollars. This is causing major disruption.

The Member who just spoke referred to the two levels of Canadians which the Conservative Government is creating by eroding the middle class. The Member is obviously right. We have seen Budget after Budget which has created major disruptions and imposed tremendous tax increases on many Canadians. In his first Budget Speech, I believe, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said that Canada has a shortage of the rich. I am sure my hon. colleagues will remember those words. I disagree that Canada has a shortage of rich people. We have a surplus of poor people, and that is the problem. The Government is trying to increase that number in order to please its many wealthy friends.

Canadians want good, fair Government. They want a Government which will stop trying to use every devious method on earth to enhance its image which has been so badly damaged by all kinds of excesses, abuses of power, conflicts of interest and every other scandal that you can think of. Being the non-partisan person that you are, Madam Speaker, you will understand that the Tories have abused their power in the past. Canadians want good, honest, and sincere Government. They want the Tories to cut out the nonsense that they have been perpetrating on the Canadian people.

**Mr. Duguay:** Madam Speaker, I would like to address a comment to my hon. colleague with reference to his comment that this is the wrong kind of legislation. For most of my life I worked in a secondary school. I always believed that the appropriate way to deal with young people was to let them make their own decisions, always reserving the right to introduce some maturity when they carried on in a way unbecoming even to young people.

I judged rather quickly that many of the things which were said on each side in the debate last week were inappropriate. However, yesterday afternoon I saw with my own eyes a very