

*Routine Proceedings*

intend to vote against the motion because peculiarities of the House allow me only to move concurrence. As a private member I am not allowed to move non-concurrence in the report to which I am fundamentally opposed.

The report calls for the eventual privatization of the Canada Post Corporation. On a matter of this importance I believe that the House of Commons must have an opportunity to debate the issue and ensure that Canadians understand what it is that the government, as proposed by this committee, intends to be considering over the next period of time.

We sat in the Consumer and Corporate Affairs committee for most of the last six months hearing testimony from people from across the country on the operations of Canada Post. What we heard in committee, including testimony from the minister, from the president of Canada Post Corporation, and from witnesses from the private sector and community organizations, did not provide us with enough information to properly conclude that privatization is an option for the post office.

Even the minister suggested in his testimony before the committee that privatization was an option that would require two or three years worth of work, of solid performance by the post office, of productivity increases, of profits generated by Canada Post.

Unfortunately, the standing committee has provided the post office with an opportunity to continue doing what it has been doing for the last several years and which has led to the profit picture of this last year. That means the cutting of services to Canadians in suburban and rural areas and the harassment of workers who dedicate their lives to ensure the mail is delivered.

Essentially, the committee gives *carte blanche* to the post office to remain unaccountable to the people of Canada. The direction that Canada Post has been taking has been protested by Canadians from coast to coast, time and time again, over the last several years. We have newspaper clippings galore. We had testimony before the committee galore. We had all sorts of opportunities to pursue the matter of what Canada Post is doing and why it is influencing negatively the needs of Canadians and Canadian communities.

When the report was tabled in the House of Commons the day before yesterday, and at the media conference

announcing the tabling of the document, the chairperson of the committee indicated that the time has come for Canada Post to be privatized. I fundamentally reject that notion. As a member of the committee who sat in on almost six months of testimony, I want to ensure that the House and all Canadians recognize that we heard very little testimony that would lead us to conclude that the time has come for Canada Post to be privatized.

The worst thing about privatizing the corporation is that it loses accountability. Canadians will no longer have the ability to hold the post office accountable for their needs. It also ensures that the process by which the government removes itself from being accountable to Canadians for their postal needs is addressed.

I want to put on the record today a couple of things about the process that led to the delivery of that report of the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and also outline some of the things that I believe Canadians can do to ensure that we have, not only an accountable postal service, but one that meets their service needs as well as their community needs.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, contained in the majority report of the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Committee are minority reports, dissenting opinions from the opposition members of that Consumer and Corporate Affairs Committee. My dissenting report, as restricted by the committee—and I understand that the committee has the powers to do that—is 12 pages long and contains a large number of recommendations which I believe, if followed by the government and Canada Post, would lead to better delivery service by the post office.

The fact that the committee restricted me in the number of pages that I could include in that dissenting report meant that, in order to say all of the things that needed to be said about Canada Post, I had to produce a minority report of my own. That report is some 50 pages long. It details quite a lot of the advice that we got from different witnesses who appeared before us in committee and outlines a number of recommendations which I believe, if followed, would give Canada Post operating directions for the delivery of the mail in the future.

Before I discuss my own report, I want to put on record a few of the things that I am quite concerned about in the existing report, the second report of the