

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Hon. Member might do the House a favour and spend a half hour with his colleague, the Member for Papineau, the former Postmaster General, who was the Minister responsible when Canada Post was made a Crown corporation. The Hon. Member for Papineau should instruct that Hon. Member as to what is the role of Crown corporations.

ROUTE TAKEN BY MAIL TRUCK

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the women and children of Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie took over their post office to draw the public's attention to their situation. The mail truck goes past their door, past their post office and off to another village, without stopping, and drops their mail there. Why can't the truck stop in their village? Why not? Why do women and children have to risk criminal charges to get their point across and get proper service?

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that Hon. Member stood up on a Statement Pursuant to S. O. 21 before Question Period and said that at the main post office in Winnipeg they were unable to buy a stamp with the Queen's picture on it. I am informed that Winnipeg Postal Station A has 10,000 stamps with the Queen's picture on them.

With regard to the question or statement or whatever it was the Hon. Member made, I will refer it to the Post Office and seek their reaction since he is apparently not able to do that on his own.

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives may think it is funny, but a constituent of mine in Winnipeg wrote me a letter to indicate that he could not buy a stamp in Winnipeg with the Queen's picture on it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, the Hon. Member has the floor.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister whether he realizes that when ordinary citizens can't use Parliament to voice their needs, they have only one alternative and that is take direct action or let themselves be victimized. Is the Minister prepared to act responsibly as a Minister of this Parliament and protect Canadians against the arbitrary decisions of the bureaucracy?

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when the Canada Post Corporation Act was brought before committee Jean-Claude Parrot, the head of CUPW, stated: "What we are saying is that under a Crown corporation we hope management will have its own authority to make certain decisions and to act as management".

That is what happened. The Hon. Member's question is one for management. Why does he not follow his leader's example and let management deal with it?

\* \* \*

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

LAKE MICHIGAN—PROPOSED DIVERSION OF WATER IN UNITED STATES

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment and relates, as well, to the proposal to divert water from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi Valley.

The Minister's answer to the House a few moments ago indicating that the American Government had given our Government assurances that we would be consulted all along the way has an ominous ring and is reminiscent of the days when the *Polar Sea* sailed through our Northwest Passage.

Can the Minister advise the House whether the Government of Canada is prepared to join with those in the United States who oppose this diversion in the American courts, to oppose publicly any move to divert water from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi Valley, rather than waiting till later, as we did in the case of the *Polar Sea*?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member must know that the Supreme Court is the effective regulatory body in connection with the project in question. There is at present no formal process in train, as I understand it.

● (1450)

It is a proposal from only one state Governor. His proposal is being vigorously resisted by neighbouring states and by conservation groups and, as I understand it, even from within the U.S. administration itself.

If at some point the Government of Canada thought it advisable to intervene in some fashion—I do not know whether it would necessarily take the form of the recommendation of the Hon. Member—he can be assured that the Government of Canada, on behalf of Canadians and in the public interest, will take every relevant step necessary, as we have in the past, to oppose this insane kind of idea.