

Government Orders

Canada. They believe that Marie Sklodowska Curie, who twice won the Nobel Prize for her discovery of radium and was the first woman to earn a place in the history of science, should be recognized by Canada.

They ask Parliament to call upon Canada Post to pay tribute to Marie Sklodowska Curie by issuing a commemorative stamp for the 125th anniversary of her birth on November 7, 1992, which is also Canada's 125th anniversary.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall all questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUATION ACT, 1991**MEASURE TO ENACT**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Danis that Bill C-40, an act to provide for the continuation of postal services, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee H.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): At the suspension of the debate the hon. member for Essex-Kent had the floor. You have ten minutes left.

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I was really trying to point out some of the inadequacies that have come along with regard to the government and Canada Post in dealing with a potential powder keg that they have had over a very long period of time.

Through the seven years this government has been in power we have seen a decline in the relationship of the employee and the employer situation at Canada Post and a decline in most of labour's problems as far as the government is concerned.

Where have these energies been placed? Obviously there has been some concern over the last while with regard to Canada Post and its approach to public relations. It seems to me that the greatest public relations goal that Canada Post could have carried out would have been to set something in place which would give its employees some confidence, some esteem, some good feelings about the corporation. It has not chosen to go in that direction. It clearly has chosen to take other action.

One of the actions that many people in my riding have been very upset about is removing the word "Canada" from Canada Post. We no longer have the word "Canada" there. I guess that is the course of privatization, but it also is the course of disassociation of this government from Canada Post. That is very unfortunate because this government is still responsible for that service.

As my colleagues have stated many, many times, the removal of the word "Canada" from Canada Post is a removal of a symbol that all Canadians did cherish and it is something that should not have happened.

We have seen it pursuing sponsorships like a SkyDome box. We have seen it sending out advertising in areas of the arts and car racing, rather than getting down to the nitty-gritty and dealing with its employees in some positive fashion.

While it is advertising and renting boxes at the SkyDome, it is receiving over 100,000 complaints about what is happening within the corporation.

I received several copies of video promotions which were sent to the employees about how great the Canada Post Corporation was. Those video reports came back to me, telling me what negative action Canada Post and this government were taking with regard to dealing with the employees.

As a matter of fact the promotions were causing exactly the opposite, negative reactions from its employees. The result is that many of the things it is doing, bragging about the profits, its advertising, renting boxes at the SkyDome, are causing the employees to ask: "Why does it not treat us relatively fairly. Why does it not sit down and negotiate a contract that would be reasonable for us?" Canada Post has stepped aside. Over the last two years while the employees have been working without a contract, the government has totally avoided pursuing this issue and getting things straightened out.

What has happened as far as the service area is concerned? If we really believe that service to Canadians is the priority of Canada Post, why have we seen 1,000