

Postal Service Policies

always reducing problems to dollars and cents. Is it not, in this case, a matter of money?

I remember that in 1963 the present Postmaster General was touring the province of Quebec preaching that the Cr ditistes were dangerous people, offering a simplistic answer. According to him, the New Democratic party was the only political party with a wide-range policy. The Postmaster General said that in Chicoutimi. That is the time when I called him a financial shark.

Has the Postmaster General, now a member of the Liberal cabinet, changed his mind about his socialist friends, his friends of the CCF party or the NDP? He said that in 1963, because the Cr ditiste solution was too simplistic; according to him, only the socialists had the solution.

An hon. Member: It is a myth.

Mr. Caouette: A myth? The minister has set aside the myth, for he is being devoured by moths.

Why? Because there is no solution. What solution does the minister suggest? He does not suggest any, not because he is not a good fellow, a charming fellow; but because he is trapped in the dilemma: namely, reduce the services or increase the rates. They have "fooled" around with that ever since the minister was appointed. In the present circumstances, anyone else would not have done better than he did. No! Only they do not want to alter the circumstances. Indeed, they are dying in them.

What do we say? Automation or mechanization—in case journalists do not understand what automation or mechanization is—must not penalize men but replace them because the machine must serve man. But, to the extent where machines replace men, I say that the government should pay a national dividend to the men so replaced, whether it be called a guaranteed annual income or anything else, but an income corresponding to the goods or services produced by machines and progress.

Then the union leaders will stop clamouring: full employment, full employment, full employment, for the more we yell for full employment, the less employment there is. One has but to look at the present unemployment increase in Canada. Even though we have in Quebec a premier clamouring: 100,000 jobs, 100,000 jobs, 100,000 jobs; in Ottawa we hear the minister say: No employment, no

[Mr. Caouette.]

employment, no employment. The premier of Quebec claims that he will create 100,000 jobs.

The minister is laughing. He knows I am right. The Cr ditiste solution is not a myth. It can be explained without turning everything upside down. The post office employee who is replaced by a machine complains that he is losing his salary, but if he were sure of getting a sufficient income or an income equal to the output or to the service obtained through the use of automation, the problem would not exist anymore and the strike that is threatening would not take place. I do hope it will not be launched because only from 50 to 55 per cent of the workers voted in favour of the strike, which shows clearly that the union leaders did not get a majority and that the Canadian people are clearly against a strike.

The people of Canada, however, want the government to suggest an answer in order to provide the workers with a decent way of life.

I invite the Postmaster General to have a look at the Cr ditiste pollution and to consider whether it could be possible to apply it, partly at least, as suggested to the House by my colleagues from the Ralliement cr ditiste.

Mr. Speaker, have I been called to order?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): I regret to interrupt the hon. member for T miscamingue (Mr. Caouette) but his time has expired. Does the House agree to allow the hon. member for T miscamingue to complete his speech?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their kindness. I shall try not to overtax it since I was about to conclude my remarks.

I would like to direct the attention of the Postmaster General on the problem of the Post Office.

I know he is eager to see the conflict settled. Under the present economic circumstances however, I am convinced that were the conflict settled, the problem would still remain unsolved. Once the contract is signed, it will only be enforced for a period of two and a half years; the strike will remain a potential threat because the economic circumstances will remain unchanged. Some insecurity will still prevail, which the Post Office workers refuse to accept. They want security and they