

*Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987*

[Translation]

**Mr. Fontaine:** Mr. Speaker, I was present this morning at the sitting of the Committee on Employment and Immigration, held in camera at the request of the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand).

Mr. Speaker, I heard the representations of the three previous speakers and they did not tell you 5 per cent of what happened in camera this morning. I would ask you, if you want to investigate this matter, to inquire of the members and dispense us from having to consider the meeting as having been held in camera. You will then note that they deliberately held back 95 per cent of the facts to mislead you Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret but the Hon. Member knows that it is not proper to impute motives to other Hon. Members. I would be pleased if the Hon. Member could give a proper answer to assist the Chair.

**Mr. Fontaine:** Because the Chair is asking me, Mr. Speaker, I will readily admit that maybe I should not have voiced my accusations here in the House. I am sorry for the Chair, but as a newly elected member, I was so flabbergasted by some of the representations made that I simply could not keep quiet.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am really grateful to the Hon. Member for making a reply which is absolutely proper and consistent with the tradition of this House. But the situation, especially as described by the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine), is creating difficulties for the Chair, because it is clearly impossible for the Chair to attend the said meeting. For my own sake, as suggested by the Hon. Member for Lévis, it might be necessary for the Hon. Member to have this committee business investigated. But it is impossible, considering that our Standing Orders and the tradition of the House are clearly against such an approach. I suggest, however, that the time may have come for a pause in dealing with this issue, especially because I do not yet have the exact motion; as soon as I have it, and after some further deliberation on my part, I might deem it necessary to continue the discussion.

For the time being, however, I seek the cooperation of all Hon. Members to conclude the interventions for now; if I feel it necessary, once I have had the opportunity to examine the exact wording of the motion, the Chair may feel advisable to return to the House to continue hearing the interventions.

I therefore ask whether this approach is satisfactory to the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

[English]

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, that is a very sound proposal. I will submit to you the exact motion which was passed in the committee. I trust that we can discuss it tomorrow once you have had a chance to review it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the Hon. Member very much. I notice that the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) is rising. I hope it is not on this point.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I will defer my remarks until tomorrow but I would like to participate in this debate because I do believe that a question of privilege has been raised.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell to know that I have noted his comments. I know that there are some other Members, including the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar), who were seeking the floor. Until I can consider the matter a little more carefully we will adjourn the matter. As I say, it is only an adjournment. If necessary, I will hear further interventions.

Are there any further questions of privilege or points of order on any other matter?

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUATION ACT, 1987

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Cadieux that Bill C-86, an Act to provide for the resumption and continuation of postal services, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Northumberland—Miramichi (Mr. Jardine) has the floor.

**Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland—Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on the proposed legislation before Hon. Members today, namely, the Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987. As the Hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) indicated in his remarks yesterday, the introduction of back-to-work legislation is something which the Government finds not only repugnant but frustrating. Given the free democratic society in which we live and the collective bargaining system which reflects the inherent rights of such a society, it is indeed regrettable that situations such as that which we are now facing with the disruption of postal services occur. It is regrettable from the point of view that the parties to the dispute, in this case Canada Post Corporation and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, have been afforded every opportunity that the free collective bargaining system offers to demonstrate a responsible attitude and settle their differences themselves without inflicting such serious hardship on the Canadian public and on the economy of the country.

● (1530)

Hon. Members will be well aware of the vast amount of rhetoric that has been emanating from the two sides in the dispute recently, firmly laying the blame for the failure of the negotiations at each other's doorstep. One has only to examine the report of the conciliation commissioner, Mr. Claude H. Foisy, to appreciate that the current bitter dispute is the collective responsibility of both parties. After reading the