

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

that the department buy its manpower training scheme either from the provinces or, with provincial approval, from private institutions like Frontier College. It is hoped that this approach will enable the department to utilize the services of Frontier College and to pay for them.

I am advised by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration that he is examining at the moment any additional actions his department could take to be of assistance to Frontier College.

POST OFFICE—WHITE PAPER ON CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, like the first participant in these adjournment proceedings I wish to inquire about a white paper. This time it is in reference to the desire—the intention, apparently—of the Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) to have the Post Office Department transformed into a Crown corporation. This, of late, has become a new diversion for the minister, a diversion by means of which we would all be led to forget the current fiascos and the debacles of the last 23 months. He views the glories of a Crown corporation and looks upon such a corporation as an immediate and irrefutable answer to a multitude of problems.

I was interested in the procedures vis-à-vis the minister's cabinet colleagues—interested because we have heard reports of rifts and inquiries about who was speaking to whom within the sacred precincts of the Privy Council. This became a particularly acute question among the pundits after the snafu regarding the Lapalme contract, the aftermath of its termination and the fluid and costly phase which followed.

Today an answer to a written question made known some interesting facts about the cost of the Lapalme situation, including the cost which has already been chalked up to the people of Canada. In connection with this particular feature of the hon. gentleman's administration a bill of well over a million dollars was incurred with regard to extra trucks and security guards, and there is a reference to the purchase of 439 trucks by a minister who had set out to slim down the cost of this particular operation, a minister who talks about economy mindedness. Yesterday, on the "Encounter" program the minis-

ter, when questioned about this white paper said:

If you take the white paper now, the unions know far more about the white paper. They have been consulted; they had their input into it; I've discussed it with them. They know far more about it than any member of the cabinet.

These are references not to peripheral studies but to the white paper. The minister was then asked whether he had the possibility of a Crown corporation in mind and he replied:

Yes. The cabinet doesn't even know about it yet.

They know that I'm working on it. They know I'm favourable to it, but they haven't seen it.

They should have read the *Globe and Mail* of Tuesday wherein the hon. gentleman expatiated a good deal and inferred that in a couple of weeks' time he will be letting his cabinet colleagues know something about it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): He will probably send it by mail.

Mr. Macquarrie: If he sends it by mail it will not be ready in two weeks. This is the currently favoured brainchild, the interesting feature of this new era to which the minister points as he sinks deeper and deeper into the bog of his own administrative incompetence. While it may be a way out for a minister who cannot make a go of his own department, despite his modest suggestion over the weekend that this nation has been waiting, lo, 100 years for his arrival in this portfolio, it may not be so joyous a solution for the Canadian public. I should like to quote from two documents. One is the famous document "A Blueprint for Change". It has one or two most interesting and challenging changes. The price of a stamp is to go up to 26 cents for first-class mail. This is a costly innovation if ever there was one. If that were not enough to frighten the unsuspecting public, I shall read what the *Toronto Star* of May 23 had to say:

And, with Kierans, the young executives are actively attempting to persuade the government to make the post office a Crown corporation, something like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, removed from the political arena and influence, but answerable to Parliament through a Minister of Communications.

What an example when one wants to talk about efficiency, administrative competence and having one's way and keeping always in the black and never in the red—the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation! What has puzzled me these last few months is that the incredible utterances of the minister from time to