

What we found instead was that the weather was a very minimal factor . . . Failure within our own processing system made up by far the majority of our breakdowns.

Even the Postmaster General will agree with that logic because he himself has written to me that, while Canada once had the best postal service in the world, the Post Office knows it has a long way to go to regain that position. I know the minister is committed to regaining Canada's former excellence, but while I do not question the extent of his achievement, although he may cite surveys which show that 90 per cent of the mail arrives on time, or even 95 per cent. I know he likes statistics; all members of the government do. I remember when the Prime Minister would cite statistics to prove that there was no inflation in this country.

Now we have statistics cited to prove that the mail is not as slow as people from coast to coast are saying it is. I would say to the Postmaster General that he should listen more to the people than to the statisticians. He might begin by listening to the Prime Minister, who said that everybody knows the mails are slow in this country. He has spoken about the complexity of the problem, and I agree that it would be foolish of the opposition to pretend that there is an easy solution, but it would be equally foolish of the Postmaster General to pretend there is no problem.

The solution will not come about by the government trying to substitute a shrug for a solution, or by preferring scorn for the opposition to co-operate with its critics. When the cost of this department is mounting so steadily—its deficit this fiscal year will exceed \$100 million—the public has a right to demand that efficiency mount with it. That deficit represents \$20 per home and the people have a right to get their money's worth. The minister may ask, "Tell us how?" I would answer that we could begin by examining the recommendations of the Samson, Belair, Riddell, Stead report on postal transportation systems. The minister has refused to table this report. When it comes to dealing with affairs in Viet Nam the government follows an open-mouth policy, but when it comes to looking after Canada it warps itself in secrecy. The report cost \$239,473. Surely we should be able to read it. Of course, we have a chance to at least read about it because if one cannot read the report in parliament he can read about it in the press.

Documents seem to leak out from the cabinet and appear in the press. We find from the press that money is being wasted on taxi rides for letter carriers, that airlines are overcharging and underserving in respect of airmail, and that postal distribution services should be contracted out to private firms instead of being carried out by the department at greater cost. Indeed, there are many who wonder if what the report recommends for distribution services should not be done more as a part of the department's program.

This is still enough of a free enterprise country that the government should be searching for ways by which more of its activities could be hired out to competitive businesses which would have to provide service equal to the price they charged. There was a time when the postal service seemed the one enterprise the government should manage, but it may be the time has come for the ultimate

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revolution—the placing of more of the postal service work into private hands. Certainly the present failure of the government cannot long continue uncriticized; it must either succeed or give place to others who can. We say to the Postmaster General that he should match the higher costs with better service or get out of the postal business and make room for those who can put it on an efficient basis.

In the interests of improved public service I request door-to-door mail delivery for the hundreds of families moving into the Malvern housing area of Scarborough. An official of the Post Office has informed me that July 9 is the target date for this service to begin. I urge the Postmaster General to hit that target. In terms of the quality of service I wish also to speak about another facet of this problem, the need for better regulation of mass distribution mail which has multiplied to an extraordinary degree in the last few years. I ask the question: Cannot steps be taken to prevent the indiscriminate gathering of names for mailing lists? It seems that if a person replies to one advertisement he may find his name on the mailing lists of other companies. This is not only a form of invasion of privacy but can have other consequences.

In my constituency, for example, an 11-year old child was solicited by a sex encyclopedia which clearly labelled itself an adult publication and was certainly unsuitable for the child. Yet into his hands, through no effort of his, through the mails came a lurid, lascivious brochure which was more titillating than educating. While none of us would want to censor what adults may choose to read for reasons good or bad, there should be some safeguard against this kind of indiscriminate mailing to children. Parliament will soon consider the need to control television commercials shown during children's programs, and equally parliament should recognize the need to regulate commercial mail sent to children. Without such regulation an 11-year old can be subjected to sex material which he has not requested and which his parents do not desire.

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The present regulations may not authorize the Postmaster General to put this right, but let him seek the authority he needs and he will find the majority of parliament and the people supporting him. We are rightly aware these days of the danger of physical pollution of the environment. We must be increasingly conscious of the danger of the moral pollution of our psychological environment, and the mails should certainly not be a passive instrument of this kind of moral pollution.

Members of this parliament are saying to the government, not on their own behalf but on behalf of a large number of people across this country: You have attempted a reorganization of the postal service. We recognize the sociological changes that have made that kind of alteration necessary. What we are demanding is that the results prove the worth of the effort and the price.

That is the challenge of this debate, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have an opportunity to speak in this debate on the motion of the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) concerning the Post Office service in this coun-