

Post Office Act

Mr. Kierans: We are making no other changes and proposing no further amendments. With respect to some of the learned journals in which my hon. friend, myself and other people are interested, we will simply be prepared, and indeed be proud and pleased to pay an additional small amount for the particular journals in which we are interested. I thank my hon. friend for his kind remarks saying that the amendment is an improvement. I hope it will be adopted.

Mr. Harding: How often does the international postal agreement come up for review?

Mr. Kierans: Every five years.

Mr. Harding: I notice that while the United States sends over 69 million pieces of mail, of various periodicals to this country, Canada exports just over 17 million. There is a deficit of some 52 million pieces, which means a loss to Canada of \$3½ million. I think this is a field which the department should review. It seems to me that we are subsidizing many American periodicals which are in direct competition with Canadian publications. Again I ask, when do these international postal agreements come up for review?

Mr. Kierans: They come up every five years. The Post Office Department, representing the government of Canada, has made strenuous representations to the executive of the International Postal Union that some relief be given, particularly in the area of second class mail where there is an unfavourable imbalance. The next meeting at which this report will be presented will be in the fall of 1969 in Tokyo, and we hope we can make our views prevail. We hope to try to recover this \$3½ million.

I might say that the total flow is about \$6 million, and we recover about \$2½ million by offering special rates to attract these publications to mail in Toronto rather than in Chicago. Our only recourse if we wanted to add terminal charges, say if we wanted to impose a postage rate of X number of cents on *Life* magazine, would be to get out of the 137 nation International Postal Union, and of course this would be a disaster for all of us.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The Chairman: The hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

Mr. Nowlan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in this debate I spoke on second reading and have not participated since. I have listened to all the arguments which have been

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

presented, pro and con, and I have listened to the explanations of the minister during the several days we have spent on this bill. I do not intend to speak on the generalities which have been discussed this afternoon. However I wish to mention a point which to me does not seem to have been considered. It might be thought of as being rather parochial, because it has to do with the province of Nova Scotia and the position of the *Halifax Herald* in Nova Scotia. Before I reach this specific item I should like to congratulate the minister—to use his own words of a few days ago—for either his sober second thoughts or for his second sober thoughts in respect of the Saturday postal service in rural areas, and the matter of strike pay which is now looked after more equitably by the inspectors in the field.

The change in respect of the rural mail delivery on Saturday is certainly an improvement and meets many of the objections from this side of the house and across the country. This afternoon another area about which the minister has acted positively, after suffering a barrage of criticism, is with regard to the immediate impact of these substantial or drastic changes concerning second class mail. After giving the minister all this honey and frosting I hope he will be in a receptive frame of mind when I come to my particular points.

While we have been discussing this bill there is something about which I have been a little perturbed. Allegations have been made about the pressure lobby, the newspaper publishers association, which is not a great friend of those of us on this side of the house. However, I understand that the newspaper publishers association intends to meet on Monday to discuss this bill. I understand further that because of their constitution, it was impossible for them to meet as a body to consider this bill and to make representations as a body.

The minister may very well say that he has heard a great many things and has had many audiences with various newspaper publishers of Canada, individually. Undoubtedly he has spoken to many of them in his office. I believe the other day he met with a group of maritime publishers and spent some time with them. I am sure also that he has spent varying periods of time with other individuals. I believe the publishers association of Canada, even though we do not agree with it too often, is a body which should be listened to. As I understand it, because of their constitution the members of this association are