

*Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987*

● (1750)

[English]

At this time, the Chair may want to ask for unanimous consent of the House to call it six o'clock.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Lewis:** Madam Speaker, we just spent two hours being castigated for shutting off debate. There are still 10 minutes left. Let the Opposition debate.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUATION ACT, 1987**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, October 13, 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. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure to rise after such a magnificent show of generosity, openness and acceptance and fairness by the Conservative Party in power. It gives us a sense of warmth and excitement to have such fine, upstanding foes who will not deign to use their massive majority to break a strike before it is even in full swing and will then turn around, once the legislation is introduced, and use the full power of their majority to cut off debate before it is even possible for people to express their view as fully as they would like.

This is one of the longest speeches that I have managed to make, and if I keep going it may start again at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. I warn the Conservatives of the consequences of this.

The objections to the Government's action that we are presenting in this case is not just a New Democratic Party position, or an opposition position, it is one that has been accepted and endorsed by newspapers across the country. These are newspapers that, to say the least, are not noted for their enthusiasm either for CUPW, or indeed for the Opposition.

For instance, the *Winnipeg Free Press* states:

Canadians are used to the sight of Parliament stopping postal strikes. This week, they witnessed the unusual spectacle of Parliament starting one.

It goes on to say that the legislation:

—brought about a complete walkout of postal workers, accompanied by the bitterness and violence that has marked past postal strikes.

In short, it was not anything that the parties to this dispute did, but the introduction of legislation by the Government, which indicates how completely unfair it was to bring this legislation at that time.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* goes on to say:

The sanctions proposed to force union members and their leaders back to work verge on the outlandish—

The *Winnipeg Free Press* is not exactly a friend of the union movement in this country.

The *Edmonton Journal*, which some might like to consider the voice of the West, said:

Ottawa is using coercion where reason might have prevailed by legislating an end to rotating postal strikes.

In the process, the federal government spurns the collective-bargaining process and erodes the right to strike. It invites the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to retaliate in a manner that can hardly make the delivery of mail more efficient.

When talks broke off Wednesday, CUPW called for a mediator but was rebuffed by Canada Post. Thursday, Ottawa proposed mediation in the new bill.

However, it could not leave it at mediation. The Government had to include compulsory arbitration, which takes away completely the potential for successful arbitration and for successful mediation to occur.

Therefore, I suggest that we have a spectacle of a Government which, in its performance, is not just outraging the Opposition, postal workers and customers of Canada Post who will bear the consequences of this foolish act, it is also outraging editorial writers in what are usually conservative newspapers throughout the country.

In view of this, I want to move:

That this House do now adjourn.

**The Acting Speaker (Madam Champagne):** It being 6 p.m., the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.