

*Adjournment Debate*

In February 1975, the Textile and Clothing Board recommended to the previous minister the imposition of a surtax on certain polyester yarn imports. This could only be done under Article XIX of the GATT, which provides the following criteria, and I quote:

Emergency Action on Imports of  
Particular Products

1. (a) If, as a result of unforeseen developments and of the effect of the obligations incurred by a contracting party under this Agreement, including tariff concessions, any product is being imported into the territory of that contracting party in such increased quantities and under such conditions—

I could read the rest of the article, but I shall refer the hon. member to Article XIX. It was decided that, under this article, evidence of import increases alone could not justify the proposed surtax at that time. In view of this decision and other circumstances, it was decided to maintain a certain surveillance with an import control list.

During the second half of 1975, the polyester yarn market improved considerably, but a reduction seems to have occurred just recently. The Textile and Clothing Board has already started an urgent investigation on this situation. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying that following comments made during the hearings of the Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, it was decided to ask an advisory committee to study present conditions and the future outlook of the textile and clothing industries, as well as their business situation; to examine the administration of the policy concerning import competition; and once again, to examine the timeliness, in view of present legislation and instruments, of implementing the policy under articles 3 and 4 of the Agreement on Textile Trades and of Article XIX of the GATT; to report its conclusions and recommendations to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce by June 30, 1976. And finally, I wish to ensure the hon. member that the minister will deal immediately with this report and that we shall inform the industry as soon as we receive it.

[English]

POST OFFICE—CLOSING OF CANTEEN AT CALGARY—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I raised a question with the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) regarding a third attempt to close the canteen at the Calgary Post Office terminal. I return to the subject tonight because this is the third attempt to discontinue canteen service to the postal workers on the graveyard shift when morale is lowest, and again on weekends, another difficult time for Post Office workers.

● (2210)

The first time it occurred the Postmaster General and I happened to be visiting the terminal at the opening ceremony. The hon. gentleman was so incensed that he immediately reordered the canteen opened on the basis of the fact that if you are going to maintain good morale you must provide good working conditions. When it occurred again, it evoked the same immediate response.

I was pleased to see in the Postmaster General's reply that he was going to investigate the matter. He said:

I would be surprised if no food is available to employees on the graveyard shift or any other shift.

Later on he said:

Obviously, well fed postmen on the midnight shift will do a lot to increase morale.

So we are in agreement thus far. Just to indicate that the canteen has in fact closed let me say that I receive regular communiqués from the CUPW people in the Calgary Post Office and they inform me that the canteen in the Calgary mail processing plant is to be closed for the midnight shift and for weekends beginning April 1, 1976. In one letter they say:

The reasons given last time were that Caterplan was incurring losses in revenue. The Post Office, I understand, agreed to underwrite the losses. This was one of the more positive investments made by the Post Office.

The letter was signed by Jim Hall, Business Agent of CUPW in Calgary.

This might seem like a small issue but it is in line with the thesis that the Postmaster General has been preaching since the new year. According to an article by Guy Demarino in the *Montreal Gazette* issue of January 30:

... Postmaster General Bryce Mackasey has begun unveiling his Post Office salvation plan.

His philosophy is that only co-operation between postal workers and management can save the Post Office from future disaster... Mackasey is ready, he says, "to set up employee-management teams in one or more Post Offices"... "Each team will set its own goals and decide how to achieve them," Mackasey said in a recent Montreal speech. Supervisors will no longer tell employees what to do and how to do it, they'll ask how they think it should be done...

Mackasey knows "It won't be easy. In the inside workers are bitter and suspicious. There isn't a lot of trust on either side. But we need their help, so we'll have to convince them that we are sincere".

The Calgary Post Office happens to have one of the labour management committees to which the Postmaster General has referred in the quotations by Mr. Demarino of the *Montreal Gazette*. They meet regularly with the management of the Post Office and they try to come to grips with the little irritants that concern good human relationships. This particular Post Office is an excellent example of the malaise to which the Postmaster General has referred on many occasions which infested the Post Office Department and caused all the problems that are only too well known in this country. I refer to the 24 wildcat illegal strikes between 1970 and 1975, for example. I trust that now the investigation has been carried out this particular irritant will be resolved.

**Mr. Paul E. McRae (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I agree entirely with the hon. member that this is not a small issue. I believe—and I think the minister agrees—that perhaps the most pressing problem in the Post Office is corporate morale, the esprit de corps which has not been present for a long time. I think there is another very serious problem and that is the very high cost differential between revenue and cost in the Post Office. In this situation we are caught between two very difficult problems, one of morale and one of cost. Let me give you some background.