

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

yes, accused—of what amounts, in the member's own words, to "unprovable allegations of discrimination being whispered about".

It may be that the head of the union is an East Indian, but I do not think that that is any basis for alleging that the postmaster is thereby discriminating. There are on many occasions differences between union leaders and management, and certainly this is true in cases where the two people concerned are of the same race and language. I think the hon. member has taken a deplorable position, especially in view of the fact that he has said that the allegations are unprovable and are only "being whispered about".

First of all, let me make it clear that neither the Postmaster General nor any of my officials authorized any telephone calls to Prince Rupert, or to anywhere else in this country, to be monitored with an automatic tape recorder. Since my hon. friend has obtained most of his information, and legitimately so, from one source, I expect it was also explained to him that the tape recorder was never attached to the phone while the union leader was in the office. The postmaster himself was expecting a personal call which I presume the person making the call wanted recorded.

With respect to the speech given to the business community in Prince Rupert, the postmaster did praise to some extent the performance of those who work for the post office. The postmaster there is apparently quite proud of being postmaster, as I am extremely proud of being Postmaster General. I am also proud of my 48,000 employees. However—and this is usually the case with most speeches—that part of the speech which praised the performance of the people who work for me was not recorded or published, because that sort of thing does not make news. However, many other things were recorded.

In his speech, for example, the postmaster pointed out the necessity for more co-operation with the business community, who could improve delivery of their mail by mailing in the mornings because there was a one o'clock flight from Prince Rupert. If they failed to do so, the next flight was at eight o'clock the following morning. As we all are, the Postmaster was quite frank in his criticism; he mentioned that he had the normal number of new people on his staff, and that he had difficulties in training them.

Motion agreed to, and the house adjourned at 10.26 p.m.

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