

Postal Service

came to me with copies of some correspondence relating to—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On what does the Postmaster General rise, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Kierans: On a question of privilege. He came to me with some correspondence from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and also with a series of telegrams and excerpts from letters to the editor in a British Columbia paper. He said, "I want to raise a question with you which I would not like to raise in the house." I looked at what he had and I agreed with him. I said, "Give me some time to check into this and I will see what truth there is in the material you have brought."

The next afternoon—and this was my understanding—I came into the house not having received the letter that the hon. member referred to, but I saw it right after the question period. In that letter, as he has already said, he wrote:

As a result of our conversation last evening please find enclosed the documents you requested along with a copy of the two questions which we agreed—

And, I have a question mark here.

—would be asked during today's oral question period.

We did not agree on this, and this certainly was not my impression. My impression was clearly that the hon. member was giving me time to call Prince Rupert and check into the facts.

Also, the material which the hon. member had shown me the night before contained no evidence whatever to form the basis for this question:

Does the Postmaster General have any evidence of racial discrimination against the President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers in Prince Rupert, British Columbia?

In the material which he sent over to me next day—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: The minister has made his speech.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I want to remind the minister of Standing Order 37 which reads:

No member may speak twice to a question except in explanation of a material part of his speech which may have been misquoted or misunderstood—

[Mr. Kierans.]

Mr. Kierans: Again on a question of privilege—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I want to know the question of privilege.

Mr. Kierans: My question of privilege as Postmaster General is that the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) has openly said in this house that unproven allegations of racial discrimination have been whispered about, and I would like to say he has no evidence whatever of who the "allegator" is, and he has no evidence whatever of any racial discrimination.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

Mr. Kierans: Let him produce his evidence, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

Mr. Rose: On a point of privilege, I would be very pleased if the Postmaster General would confine his remarks to the relevancy of what has been said today and not rehash an argument which he has raised twice on previous occasions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The hon. member for Fraser Valley West has the floor.

Mr. Rose: I have concluded my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I hope that before the debate is over for the sake of the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) we finally establish who in fact the "allegators" really are. Mr. Speaker, I suspect the Post Office is plagued with "allegators". As somebody said, Mr. Speaker, the Postmaster General sheds too many crocodile tears—"allegator" tears.

Mr. Cafik: Let us hear something worthwhile.

Mr. McGrath: I presume the hon. member is going to participate in the debate and not make his usual contribution from his seat.

Notwithstanding the usual eloquent contribution of the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), who would make a first class Postmaster General and restore the postal service in this country to what it was and what it should be, one gets the feeling on