

*Government Organization*

consider Elora's special needs as a village whose main industry is tourism. He said:

Elora's history is manifested by its buildings, and the present post office is the most significant in the city square, as well as being a symbol of the village.

He suggested a parallel to Toronto's old City Hall. I should point out that this little community has always been greatly appreciated by visitors and vacationists. People from all over the province go to see the well-known Elora rocks on the Grand River. Since a conservation program was undertaken by the Grand River Conservation Commission a beautiful park and terrace have been laid out along the river and in the summer thousands of tourists and campers take advantage of the facilities provided. In discussing this matter I think all these things should be taken into consideration.

Perhaps I should summarize the reply by Mr. Webb, a member of the staff of the Department of Public Works who appeared at that meeting. He said that from the political point of view it might be best to renovate but his department, representing the federal government, was only interested in the dollars and cents aspect. I ask the committee to note the emphasis placed on dollars and cents. Mr. Webb explained that union contracts with the Post Office demanded direct lighting, air conditioning, lunch rooms and, in a village the size of Elora, 14,000 square feet of working space. He told the meeting that in his opinion it would economically be impossible to renovate the present building though on some further questioning—and this is the point—he agreed a detailed study had not been undertaken. In other words, the decision was made to build a new post office although the department had not even gone into the question how much it would cost to renovate the old one.

In these circumstances I believe I have a perfect grievance to bring before the minister. Before any action is taken a thorough examination of the situation ought to be made so that, if at all possible, the old building can be retained, with the facilities which the Post Office says it requires being provided in a renovated structure. This, in my view, would be far better than destroying the old building completely. As the writer of the editorial on this subject observed, we all know how beautiful the new post office would be. Most of these new buildings are like shoeboxes. They may be functional but they certainly do not commend themselves architecturally to those who travel round our country.

I maintain that the post office now in use in Elora should be preserved. Buildings of this type add to the attractiveness of the community. Before any definite action is taken by the department I feel that the people of Elora should be consulted. Better public relations would certainly exist if this course of action were followed.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Latulippe:** Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to say a few words on the bill before us and on the present situation which is not very hopeful and which needs to be corrected.

I heard earlier the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) say that someone had to take his responsibilities. In my opinion, it is up to the government and the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) to assume them.

As the hon. member for Trois-Rivières pointed out earlier, some trade-unionists are ambitious and unscrupulous when it comes to abiding by the rules and the law.

Then, if honesty is a thing of the past, if it is no longer possible to control anything, let the State take its responsibilities. Earlier, I asked a question to the Postmaster General who told me that it was not his responsibility but that of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey). I think the Minister of Labour and the Postmaster General should co-operate; and it is high time they did.

Mr. Chairman, it is the government's responsibility to establish compulsory arbitration within the public sector, because with our inaction and our casualness we are paralysing the whole economy and admitting that those who are wrong are in the right.

As to us, of the Ralliement Créditiste, we are prepared to assume our responsibilities. If compulsory arbitration is necessary, it should be imposed. The government should take its responsibilities, because it is more than ever time that it did, and we shall see if it is capable of doing it. If nothing else can be done, the government must act. I think that the majority of the Canadian people would be satisfied if such a step were taken. I think there is a limit to everything. When ambitious people go too far, it is imperative to promulgate regulations, in order to curb their ambitions. However we must also set stopping points as well as landmarks.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the Postmaster General and the officials of his department have the responsibility to make decisions. The Postmaster General has taken a few decisions