

Canada Post Corporation

The Hon. Member talked about cuts in postal services. He then went on to refer to "the Tory cuts in postal services". He calls it government cuts. We on this side cut the postal service. Yet the NDP, along with the Liberals and ourselves, supported the idea that Canada Post be set up as a crown corporation.

What does that inconsistent political Party really believe? They voted for the Crown corporation. Are they really saying now that they want a Crown corporation but they want the Government to manage it? Surely, members of the NDP have to sit at one end of the teeter-totter or the other. They cannot scream that the teeter-totter is too high when it is up, or complain they are having no fun when it is down. The fact is they voted for the Crown corporation, they got the Crown corporation, and they cannot stand in this House and tell the Government to run it.

The Hon. Member then talked about the elderly. He had them jogging halfway across Burnaby to get their mail. He said that they had to walk several hundred yards. If he looks at the postal plan, he will note that in hospitals, senior citizens' residences, and other places the plan is to attach mail boxes to those facilities.

Mr. Robinson: Seniors live on their own, too.

Mr. Malone: That is a good point. That is why his point of a walk of several hundred yards is wildly wrong. That is not what the plan says. It is to be within walking distance for seniors, yet he misses the point.

The Hon. Member opposes 24-hour post offices. He does not want Mac's Milk, 7-Eleven, and all the rest of these outlets running extended hours post offices, yet he turns around and champions women. He says that the NDP love the women out there and that the majority of workers at the post office are women. If there are less people working in the post office, he says that somehow puts women down. That is an interesting and strange piece of logic, but let me give him some bits of information that he might find useful. Whether we like it or not, only one woman out of six is like the traditional family where the man works and the female is at home with the children.

● (1750)

Ms. Dewar: Working.

Mr. Malone: I shouldn't say working. I apologize for that instantly. I do not mean to imply that. I mean "employed". Anyone who has ever been in the home or ever been a mother knows what absolute full-time work is. I meant to use the word "employed".

The fact of the matter is that today most families have both partners working out in the community. Under the system advocated by the Hon. Member for Burnaby, by the time they come home the post office has been closed for an hour. Under the old system of the old dinosaur Party the post office is usually located downtown in the big building with the tower and the clock, with no parking for blocks around. It is never

open except when you are at your employment, and often it is closed over the noon hour.

That is what the Hon. Member for Burnaby proposes for the modern society rather than the shopping centres with parking areas and extended hours, that is, the kind of situation which is appropriate today.

The Hon. Member for Burnaby talked about junk mail. I have only received one piece of junk mail in my life. It was a request for money from the New Democratic Party. I took one look at it and said that I was going to write to someone because they were sending me junk mail. If there were in fact a category of mail called "junk mail", no one would send it. I agree that there are receivers of mail who sometimes do not like what they are getting, who wish they did not get this flyer or that brochure. When I return from my home in western Canada I am always amazed at how many new pizza companies have opened up in my area. Their flyers are always under my door, and I already eat too much pizza as it is.

However, the people who send the mail and the flyers do not think they are junk. If it were truly junk to the senders they would soon quit sending it. They do not send this mail only to watch their bank account go down. It is only junk to some of the recipients. People send that mail with a purpose in mind. For the Hon. Member to make that submission is, in fact, to deny the entrepreneurship of many people in the business community.

This inconsistent Member, who is only consistent in his inconsistencies, then said that the 7-Eleven and Mac's Milk stores are awful places, that they are terrible places to work and are insecure, et cetera. Later on he said that Canada Post has one of the worst safety records in the Canadian enterprise. This fellow would have everyone walk to the sender to pick up their mail. He cannot have it all these different ways. The argument must be better developed than that.

In all fairness to the Hon. Member, post office concerns have always touched the hearts of everyone in urban and rural Canada. It is important for him to remember that the Canada Post Corporation will show a profit next year. It has already been demonstrated that there is a speed up in the turnaround of mail. The operation of the Post Office is becoming more efficient. There will be more and more postal outlets as a result of the new Canada Post Corporation plan. I thank the Hon. Member for bringing this issue to the floor of the House of Commons, because I think people will now recognize that we are in fact on the right track.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would like to advise the House at this time that the time provided for Private Member's Hour will end at 6.05. The time taken by the Private Member's Bill of the Hon. Member for Gatineau is not taken away from the time of the Hon. Member for Burnaby, but unfortunately the time taken for Royal Assent is. Therefore, Private Member's Hour will end at 6.05.