

Routine Proceedings

that the NDP would have proposed for us to concur with that proposition.

The NDP has proposed for us to concur with this report, and Committee recommendation No. 36 of the report with which we are asked to concur states:

The Government of Canada privatize Canada Post once adequate financial performance, comparable to the private sector levels, has been attained and once the industrial relations climate has improved.

The Liberals do not want to concur with that. Instead, we want Canada Post to remain a Crown corporation. We stand firmly behind that proposition in my party. We do not want to concur with any such proposition.

Mr. Keyes: Do you think Mr. Parrot concurs?

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Parrot I do not think concurs with that either. I think he is with us when he says that Canada Post should remain a Crown corporation.

Government recommendation No. 37 that we are asked to concur with this morning—

Mr. Gauthier: By the NDP.

Mr. Boudria: By the NDP my colleague reminds me. I am sorry, I had almost forgotten that. It is hard to fathom that proposition. We are asked to concur with the following:

The privatization plan be carried out by means of a public share issue and should incorporate an employee share ownership plan.

The Liberals want that clause to be eliminated. We do not concur with that.

We are also asked to concur with the following:

That Canada Post, if privatized, continue to be regulated by an independent, third party regulatory agency with decision-making power.

The Liberals do not want Canada Post to be privatized at all. In addition to disagreeing with all those things we are asked to concur with this morning—

Mr. Keyes: By the NDP.

Mr. Boudria: By the NDP, my colleague reminds me. I had almost forgotten again. The Liberals also want Canada Post to restore its previous corporate identity; that it have a program that reflects the role of the corporation as an institution of the Government of Canada.

We think it is important for Canada Post to have the flag of Canada. The Government of Canada has allowed Canada Post to adopt this new corporate logo and name, which states: "Mail" and a logo symbol of a wing and then *poste*. There is nothing wrong with that. However, it has removed the flag of Canada from its logo, and there is something wrong with that. It has removed the word "Canada" from Canada Post. We want to put Canada back into Canada Post. That is a dissenting recommendation of the Liberal Party. We do not want to concur with anything otherwise.

We, the Liberals, also want Canada Post to ensure that postage stamps being sold at retail counters are not being sold below the retail price, as a result of those privatized jobs that the minister likes so much. What is happening now is that chain stores are selling postage stamps as loss leaders. We think that proposition is wrong and we want measures to prevent that.

In *The Montreal Gazette* this morning the following editorial appeared, and I want the minister to be well aware of this. The headline states: "Post office is a public service" and the article states:

Some Conservatives in Ottawa have an almost indecent urge to privatize for the sake of privatization.

Their latest target is Canada Post. The Conservative members of the Parliamentary committee, with the blessing of the Mulroney government, have just recommended the selling off of the Crown corporation as soon as it gets profitable enough to interest private investors.

It further states the following:

Would a privatized postal system keep rural post offices open? Would it scrap the hated supermailboxes? Would it continue "unprofitable" activities, such as delivering the mail to the far corners of the country? Not bloody likely. Indeed, it would be likely to prune service even further in those areas—notably service to remote places—that are not profitable. Yet such service is clearly in the national interest.

Now that Canada Post is no longer a drain on the treasury, the government should not be thinking of selling its profitable parts to the highest bidders. It should be thinking of using the profits to pay back taxpayers for long years of deficits, and to restore lost services to the customers.

I want to tell the minister, very briefly, one tangible example of what has happened with the closure of one post office in my riding. Yesterday, the minister said that rural post offices were only closed when there was a so-called natural opportunity. These alleged natural opportunities were defined as the resignation or death of the postmaster.