

Post Office

pared to adopt guidelines and restraints with respect to other forms of income, that is, on profits, interest rates, rents and professional fees. May I quote from an article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of June 27, 1970. The headline is, "Man. Liberals Reject Separate Wage Guideline". The article reads in part:

Delegates to the Manitoba Liberal policy conference during the weekend rallied to the support of the Canadian Labor Congress in opposing a separate guideline of six per cent limit on wage increases advocated by the federal prices and incomes commission.

They adopted, instead, a resolution calling for guidelines on corporation profits, rents, professional fees and consumer products, as well as a "reasonable" wage guideline.

The resolution was moved by E. B. Osler, Liberal member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre.

I am glad that the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Osler) has adopted proposals which we, on this side of the House, have been putting forward for months. I say that our present difficulties could be settled easily if the government would get off its high horse and negotiate in good faith, which it has not done up to now.

May I make one last suggestion before sitting down? If the minister wants to stop the rotating strikes and the inconvenience to the public, let him ask himself what alternative have the postal workers to what they are doing? I suggest the government ought to instruct Messrs. Harper and Monk to come off their high horse, meet with the postal workers and say, "Let us discuss a settlement on the basis of proposals made by Judge Lippé." I submit that he is not pro-labour. He is not a member of the NDP. As Chairman of the Conciliation Board, he put forward proposals which, if accepted, would have ended the dispute. He recommended, Mr. Speaker, a wage increase of 50 cents an hour. If the government were to do that, I feel confident that the log jam which has been holding up the settlement of this dispute which has so inconvenienced the public would quickly disappear. I urge the government to get down to business immediately, so that the postal service will operate properly and the mails will move.

[*Translation*]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, about two years ago,—

[*English*]

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Since I have been quoted freely, I wish to set the

[Mr. Orlikow.]

record straight. I am not raising a point in order to disagree with what has been said; I merely wish to emphasize something that is worth emphasizing. The resolution that I sponsored in Winnipeg urges the Canadian Labour Congress to make a serious effort to obtain specific commitments that would constitute reasonable and feasible compensation to its members for participating—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I think the hon. member is entering the debate. That is not a question of privilege.

• (4:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, barely two years ago, the present Postmaster General and Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) told us emphatically that he was going to straighten out the Post Office Department. He told us he would apply new administrative concepts. It is probably because of his excellent concept that he had to leave the province of Quebec and its administration to come and make trouble in Ottawa. He made high-flown speeches saying he would completely transform the department into a profitable department, that would meet expenses and give an improved service to the Canadian people, and it, might even become the department of which the Canadian people would be the proudest.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to note as this session comes to an end that that department is precisely the one with which the people are least pleased. The climate of postal administration in Canada, pardon me the expression, is rotten, and the Canadian public, regardless of what the minister may say about it, is not responsible for it.

During the past two years, many bombs have exploded, trucks were demolished or simply overturned, windows were broken, employees were discharged, heads of families lost their income and security because order was restored in the department and because they claimed they were giving the Canadian people an adequate service and Canada-wide communications.

Not so long ago, the minister repeated in this House that he would allow for open negotiations, so as to find a solution to the postal conflict. Opposition members were hoping that the minister would at last assume his responsibilities, moderate his pretensions and find a solution. Today, press releases confirm that at the time Justice René Lippé's