

Adjournment Debate

particular I want to be sure that the rights of casual employees in the postal system have come through this strike unimpaired and inviolate, and that the authority and the prerogatives of postmasters and their management remain supreme in each post office, which is their place of duty and rightful jurisdiction.

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank my friend, the hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack). I appreciate his questions and his support for the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) during very difficult times. I know of his uncle and am sure he was a good postmaster. We have many employees in the Post Office today of the same calibre, many of whom are very concerned about the problems they have had, for which they feel some responsibility, as well as being concerned about the things that are happening in the Post Office and to the country.

There are some parts of the hon. member's question which I am not prepared to answer as they go beyond what

I have prepared, and to some extent beyond the questions asked in the House earlier. I regret that I cannot give the hon. member those answers off the top of my head at this time.

I should like to answer the one question asked by the hon. member concerning the maintenance of the right of casual employees not to join a union, and the right of the Post Office to bring in casuals whenever necessary. In actual fact the freedom of Canadians not to join a union remains a provision of the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that we have no agreement whatsoever, nor is there any attempt to restrict the freedom of Canadian citizens to accept casual employment without being forced to join the union. You may rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that as law-abiding citizens we do not intend to contravene the Public Service Staff Relations Act. We will abide by it so long as it remains in play.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.17 p.m.