

Government Orders

the way Canada Post management was handling some of those grievances at the shop floor level. I want to remind him of that.

This bill here is awful. This bill seeks through the back door and through the premise that the government is trying to help the employees, to de-stabilize and start us on the slippery slope to privatization of Canada Post. It is not a bill I am going to support.

I believe that Canada Post has a primary responsibility to offer quality service to Canadians. I am not opposed to Canada Post's mandate being changed to suit changing times. I am opposed to Canada Post's getting involved in the private sector. They are all supposed to be private sector people over there. They all jump up and down and say: "Private sector, private sector". If they are so concerned about the private sector, get Canada Post out of the business of competing with private courier services across Canada for a start and start preserving some jobs. You cannot speak out of both sides of your mouth all the time, although a lot of members opposite try that all the time. I find that they bite their lip a lot.

I cannot support this bill. I know what this bill is all about and the Canadian public knows what this bill is all about. No matter what flowery language those converted on the road to Damascus opposite are going to use in this debate, those individuals who work at Canada Post will judge the gang opposite by its record and not by its rhetoric.

The record has been abysmal. It has crushed the spirits of people who wanted to work at Canada Post. It has driven people out and a once proud, productive and wonderful place to work, Canada Post, has become a nightmare for most of those employees.

In conclusion, let me say I would hope that the people listening out there do not get sucked in once again by another Tory promise that this is going to improve service. Remember what they said and judge them accordingly the next time you go to the polls.

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga West): Madam Speaker, I did not want to stop this show. This gentleman is about to graduate from the George Baker school of oratory. He has been so amusing so far that I want to ask him a question so that he can continue for a little while.

He came here in 1988. He is telling us all the wonderful things that have gone on with Canada Post. He does not remember the days prior to that when Canada Post was running a deficit of almost \$1 billion. He does not remember when 70 per cent of complaints in member's offices were about Canada Post from the citizens of this country who were not getting service and turnaround time.

Now we have a corporation that we can be truly proud of. It is finally showing a profit, finally being productive and putting forward a real effort to deliver on time. Ninety-nine per cent of the mail is now delivered on time. It is showing a profit.

My question to the hon. member is does he not realize that when he talks about the ultimate privatization of Canada Post, by selling to the employees 10 per cent it will make it almost impossible for anyone else to buy it? Who are you going to sell it to? You offer it to someone and they say: "We do not want to buy it, 10 per cent is owned by the employees. We cannot buy it".

His argument is totally out of whack. I really did enjoy the hand waving and the George Baker school of oratory style. Please continue and please try to answer that question.

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): If the hon. member enjoyed the performance, perhaps he should have also listened to the content of what I said because the content was much better than the performance.

The content was absolutely factual and the hon. member opposite knows that. The hon. member can go back. If the hon. member thinks that they have done such a great job at Canada Post, I would invite him to see how many Canada Post employees he can get at his next rally if he were running again. I will show you that those Canada Post employees would not be on the inside of the hall. They would be on the outside of the hall with placards, where they were the last time after four years of Tory government in 1988.

I want to clarify something. The hon. member opposite would have us believe that I think profit is a dirty word. On the contrary, good management practices have to be promoted and, where established, recognized. There have been some substantial changes in Canada Post. Some have been extremely positive. Unfortunately, some have been absolutely devastating, mostly the ones affecting the employees of Canada Post.