

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 15, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Thursday, May 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope; and the amendment of Mr. Boudria (p.10744)

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Bill C-73.

I support this bill because I believe that all Canadians can take pride in the entrepreneurial spirit that Canada Post is building and that this plan will allow the corporation to share that spirit with its employees directly.

The purpose of this legislation is to enable Canada Post to create an employee share savings plan. In turn, this legislation will provide Canada Post's employees with a tangible reward for building on their company's success.

We are entering a new era of communications worldwide, particularly the information transfer business of Canada Post. Competition is a constant in any business and to succeed businesses such as Canada Post must continue to improve the quality of their products and services.

Let us make no mistake about it. Canada Post is a business. It is in competition not only with other courier companies and delivery services but also with new

information transfer technologies like fax machines and direct fund transfers.

In that competitive climate Canada Post has been proving to the public and Canadian businesses that it can provide a reliable and affordable service. In fact, Canada Post was the first postal administration to hire independent auditors, Ernst & Young, to measure its letter mail delivery performance.

The latest results for the period of January to March 1992 show that Canada Post has met its publicly stated delivery standards 98 per cent of the time. This compares with the performance of less than 85 per cent on time delivery when the surveys were first taken in 1987.

Employee participation through the share plan is a common sense step to ensure that improvement continues. Canada Post is now recognized as a modern, effective postal system able to compete with the best in the world at a price that Canadians want, one that has made the fundamental changes necessary to improve service and reliability.

A major step in this process has been the achievement of financial self-sufficiency. Canada Post has announced a profit for three consecutive fiscal years and for two years in a row it has paid a dividend to its shareholder, the Government of Canada.

Financial self-sufficiency ensures that Canada Post is not a burden on taxpayers and allows Canada Post to purchase the new equipment needed to keep improving its products and services.

• (1010)

Since the mid-1980s, Canada Post has invested in research to develop the next generation of mail processing equipment. Instead of equipping the postal system with off the shelf technology as was done 20 years ago, manufacturers were asked to build to specifications which had been designed to respond to customer expectations.

Computer based sorting equipment now enables Canada Post to deliver 40 million pieces of mail every working day to over 11 million addresses across Canada.