

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

hon. member that, several months ago, he met the minister responsible for provincial parks in Quebec who made some suggestions. A reply by the provincial authorities has not yet been received.

As was mentioned by the hon. member, I think it is up to the province to first ask for the establishment of federal parks within the limits of its jurisdiction. I do not think that the federal authorities should be blamed for neglecting to initiate projects in this field, because the federal authorities have always been prepared to receive suggestions made by all the provinces and particularly those of the province of Quebec.

As I am not an expert on this subject, I will draw to the attention of the minister the remarks made by the hon. member.

[English]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—EFFECT OF  
INCREASED RATES ON TRADE PAPERS  
PUBLICATION

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, the question I should like to raise tonight is consequent on a singular question I tried to raise a few days ago during the question period. It relates to what the government intends to do about the imbalance, the injustice, and the illogic of the increase in postal rates to non-profit publications in Canada.

When I raised the question earlier it was ruled out of order and I take this opportunity of bringing the subject to the attention of the house tonight. When I raised the original question the *Ottawa Citizen* recorded on the front page the fact that as a result of postal rate increases to non-profit publications many of them were folding. As the headline stated, as a result of the massive postal rate increases these non-profit publications are folding up, and many others are having a hard time continuing operations. The article indicates that in some cases the increase in respect of unions, co-operatives and church organizations range up to 2,600 per cent.

This is a very serious problem which we should again consider. For many years members of this party and members of other parties in the house have urged that second class or business mail in Canada, that is publications by private or commercial firms, must pay its way. These publications should pay

[Mr. Forest.]

their share of the cost of mailing services in Canada. They should pay their fair share of the load in respect of the mail service of Canada, as the users of first-class mail have done for many years. We still hold this point of view.

When the proposals of the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) were before the house last fall we urged, and we urge tonight, that while rates paid by non-profit publications may be increased, these publications should not have to bear an undue, illogical burden. They should not have to pay more than their ordinary share of the increased costs of postage. I am told that union and co-operative papers, maybe the church papers, are prepared to pay an increase of up to 400 per cent or 500 per cent, but to ask that in some cases they pay an increase of 2,600 per cent or 2,700 per cent is surely unfair.

While we may admire the Postmaster General for bringing about a generally healthier situation with regard to postal rates in Canada by making the business publications pay more than they have in the past, we are right in questioning the extra load the non-profit publications will have to bear. Another question I would ask is this: In view of the protests which many members of all parties I am sure are receiving, will the government take a second look at the situation which results in the non-profit, church, union, co-operative and other association papers paying very much more than in the past, 2,000 per cent or more in some cases? Some of them may have to cease publication. Will the Government consider setting up a non-partisan committee to review their plight which results from the very severe postal rate increases?

If I had another minute or two, Mr. Speaker, I would ask one other question. If the government fails to do that, will it not consider a cabinet shuffle whereby the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) would become the postmaster general? I understand the Minister of National Defence is in favour of keeping as they are non-profit organizations such as NATO? The Postmaster General would, I think, make an excellent defence minister because he is in favour of our withdrawing from the costly organization of NATO. I think that if this were done the non-profit publications of Canada would be in a much better position than they are at present.