

Post Office

tion which it would be in the best interests of the Canadian public to know? I hardly think so.

The report conducted by Hay Associates of Toronto is now almost three years old. Lots of things have happened in the last three years.

Mr. Dinsdale: All downhill.

Mr. Lamontagne: The hon. member should be aware of that. Yesterday in committee the hon. member for Brandon-Souris asked me to table the annual report of the Post Office for 1976-77. I told him that it had been tabled on May 17.

Mr. Dinsdale: Five months late.

Mr. Lamontagne: That does not matter. He did not know it had been tabled. He should not complain that he does not have the information when he does not know about it.

Mr. Dinsdale: You do everything in secrecy.

Mr. Lamontagne: The hon. member is demanding a document which is almost three years old and whose application to current realities at Canada Post Office has now only limited relevance.

[*Translation*]

As I said earlier, this report was a confidential study on attitudes at various management levels of the department. In fact, this report was entitled "Climate Analysis Report—Rapport d'analyses du climat de travail." If that confidential document were made public it might embarrass some components of the Post Office Department that did not operate properly at the time, for various reasons.

[*English*]

We do not try to hide the fact that we have problems. I described a moment ago the magnitude of this problem. But General Motors have problems, Bell Canada have problems and Air Canada have problems.

Mr. Béchard: And the Conservatives have problems.

Mr. Lamontagne: The Gallup poll shows this.

Mr. Dinsdale: Let us have an election.

Mr. Lamontagne: This morning's poll showed that the Canadian people do not think that the Post Office is that bad. Some people thought that part of the reason the polls are down is in the Post Office. Things in the Post Office are improving. The improvement in the Post Office has probably helped boost the polls.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I would not like a section or a division of the Post Office Department to be subjected to pressures following a report from outside consultants. May I remind the hon. member that we sincerely worry about the morale of postal workers. The disclosure of some parts of that report would certainly prejudice their morale. Furthermore, the Hay report

[Mr. Lamontagne.]

is merely one report among several submitted by inside or outside consultants on postal operations. It is not the most important and certainly not the most recent. Why this obsession concerning the Hay report? Is the hon. member aware that there have been more recent studies on the Post Office operations that might inform him more adequately? I might mention that a former president of the major postal workers union last week published a summary of the main events that occurred in the Post Office Department over the last 20 years. He probably felt that the Hay report was not so important as he did not mention it in his book. I am convinced that this former union president is aiming at the well-being of the Post Office as sincerely as hon. members. Maybe it is in the interest of the hon. member to use the Hay report to act as the champion of freedom of information for Canadians?

It is obviously a very noble gesture to fight in defence of freedom of information, of the right of the public to know what is going on. But to urge the publication of information that can destroy the career and the morale of a person is another thing—

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. With the consent of the House, perhaps we could go back into committee of the whole before the Chair calls it six o'clock. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The house resumed consideration in committee of the whole of Bill C-56, to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to authorize payments related to provincial sales tax reductions—Mr. Chrétien—Mr. Turner in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

On clause 1—*Employment at special work site or remote location.*