

Routine Proceedings

Given that it was indeed his government that approved that corporate plan, why is it so right for the government to impose that will of shutting down all post offices in Canada? Similarly, what is wrong with wanting to keep all post offices in Canada? Surely if one is deemed to be political interference, the other should be seen as being the same, and if one is not political interference, advocating the other should equally be appropriate. That is the first thing I would like the minister to answer.

Second, the minister says that Canada Post had a deficit in the past, and that deficit was supported by Canadians. I agree. The minister says 80 per cent of the post office's revenue is created by business. Of that 80 per cent, does the minister think that that portion of it was losing money? He said that Canadians would be supporting businesses. Would he not agree with me that the evidence that he has is the exact contrary, that the biggest paying proportion of postal operations is the ad mail business. In fact, that part is the revenue-generating portion that creates tremendous profit for Canada Post, as indicated in the last annual report of the post office.

Given that the minister probably knows that that information is such, I wonder why he pretended a while ago that individual Canadians were supporting businesses by wanting to have a publicly-operated postal system.

Second, if the minister was right—I think I have just proven he is wrong, in any case—in his proposition that Canada Post, and therefore the public, when it was losing money was supporting businesses. If when Canada Post was losing money it was supporting businesses, the public was supporting businesses, would it not be equally right that Canada Post, while making money, would have businesses supporting everyone else? If that is the case, why does he want to sell it now?

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to criticize the member's English. His English is excellent, given that his first language is French. I was merely pointing out that along with a lot of other Canadians, as we get influenced by the United States, the use of adverbs is falling. As Nancy White said on one of her CBC radio shows, will the adverb disappear gradually or will it die real quick. That was the only point.

The so-called policy to shut down rural post offices is nonsense. The way in which all current corporations operate is that they are required under the Financial Administration Act to put forward a corporate plan.

An hon. member: The Crown Corporations Act.

Mr. Andre: The Crown Corporations Act. In any event they put forward a corporate plan indicating what they anticipate in new expansion, growth and so on over the next few years and how they intend to match it. That is there. It is not something the government tells them to do in terms of its details. It is what management proposes to alert the government, alert the House, alert the country, alert everybody, in terms of what this Crown corporation is doing.

The corporate plan indicated the policy in terms of rural operations, and the policy is today, as the hon. member knows, that where there are natural opportunities, and no one is being fired or dismissed—

An hon. member: No. no!

Mr. Andre: I heard the hon. member during his debate talk about his side of Dalkeith, the so-called bribe as he describes it. Whatever it was, in any event the policy is very clear. The policy is that when the—

Mr. Boudria: I accused no one of committing a crime.

Mr. Andre: Gee, I listened to the hon. member. I did not say he committed a crime.

Mr. Boudria: Point of order. Mr. Speaker, I accused no one of committing a criminal offence. A bribe is an offence under the Criminal—

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I will be allowed an opportunity. It seems the hon. member just cannot—

Mr. Boudria: He didn't withdraw.

Mr. Andre: Now here he is, heckling again. He is not allowing me to get a sentence out before he is heckling again. Will he allow me to speak? I sat here and listened to him. I did not interrupt him. Would he please allow me to proceed?

I have not accused the hon. member of any illegal act, for goodness sakes. What I said, as he knows, is that the policy of the post office in terms of—

Mr. Boudria: He did not.