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popular culture that reaches in every Canadian home and the remotest areas of Canada, for people who are unable to visit this Arts Centre, and who will have no right to this culture, the Postmaster General has decided that the Post Office Department must pay its way.

So, he offers subsidies. The minister should take notice, because I think that in today's *Le Devoir,* he got a proud answer from Claude Ryan, which I quote from text:

● (10:10 p.m.)

The idea of subsidies is contrary to all the standards which, in western countries, preside over the relations between the daily press and the political power.

And he added:

To offset such difficulties, the Postmaster General suggested special subsidies which could, on request, be paid by the Secretary of State.

Claude Ryan then said:

I'll have none of those hand-outs scattered right and left.

I agree with this journalist, who understands the problem which allows some newspapers to remain in existence, and causes others to disappear.

We have seen, for example, *Time* magazine and the *Reader's Digest* protected by the Postmaster General, but when it is time to save newspapers which inform the population of a constituency and of the farthest regions in Canada, the government refuses to listen to the opposition, who happens to be voicing the truth.

I repeat it once more, if we can spend $46 million to build the National Arts Centre, which was to cost $9 million, for the general culture of the people, for the general education of the Canadian population, let us allow the newspapers to survive and to that end let us grant them a special status for their distribution across Canada.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I must first set the record straight with regard to some facts stated by the hon. member. He said tonight that postal rates increased from $6,000 to $55,000.

But when he first spoke, he talked of an increase from $28,000 to $55,000, and he was much closer to the truth at that time.

Mr. Dumont: Would the minister permit a question?

[Mr. Dumont.]

Mr. Kierans: The correct figure in October was $27,000. That is exactly what we received, and as a result of the increase in rates, effective April 1, it became $55,000.

But, Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the department has not received any request for a special rate for this magazine. Nobody contacted me personally or the department on that matter.

I can answer that question. The magazine *Montreal 68* ceased publication in October; long before the introduction of the new postal rates. In fact, six months before April 1, the owners had decided to stop publishing the magazine.

In fact, since publication stopped in October, the decision must have been made in July or August, a long time before the bill was introduced in the house, for financial reasons, perhaps on account of a $500,000 deficit.

It is easy to blame the Minister of Communications for everything. I am not at all concerned, because I am convinced that the employees of my department are devoted and ready to serve the Canadian people as best as possible.

Mr. Dumont: Mr. Speaker, would you allow me—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I must remind the hon. member that at this stage he cannot rise on a point of order or ask a question.

Mr. Dumont: Even if I did not use all the time allotted to me, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

[*English*]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—EFFECT OF RATE CHANGES ON NON-PROFIT PUBLICATIONS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, it is said that dialogue is the "in" thing, and the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) and I are doing a good deal of dialoguing. Whether or not he likes the fact that it is done at this nocturnal hour I do not know, but I love the hushed expectance of the crowded house at 10.15 p.m. This is why I often take up with him matters of concern to the Canadian people.

Mr. Kierans: It is always the same thing.

Mr. Macquarrie: I hear the minister interjecting and taking some of my seven minutes by saying it is always the same