

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

in the other areas that are being examined are anxiously waiting for a decision from the federal government, to be made in conjunction with a decision by the provincial government. I know, from talking to these people, that they would be very disturbed to learn that within the next year or two they will get a new national park but it will be under the jurisdiction of a Crown corporation, with the result that if they have any complaints and take them to the government they will receive the stock answer, "We as a government can do nothing about these complaints because the administration of parks is being handled by a Crown corporation."

We want a second national park. The people of Manitoba and of other provinces are very interested in national parks. From talking to people in my area, and particularly to those who are living in or have business relationships in Clear Lake National Park, I know that since this bill has been introduced they have become very concerned about what the government is trying to do in setting up a Crown corporation to administer the national parks.

**Mr. Bigg:** Mr. Speaker, as my remarks will take a few minutes, may I call it ten o'clock?

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, could we be told by someone the change in business for tomorrow?

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, the government House leader has asked me to announce that he intends to call the order for second reading of the investment companies bill as the first item of business tomorrow.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**POST OFFICE—POLICY RESPECTING CLOSURE OF LOW-INCOME BRANCHES**

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my grievance tonight involves the Post Office Department and the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans). I am indeed sorry that the minister has not seen fit to be in the House because I believe he should hear what I have to say. I am disturbed at developments in the Post

[Mr. Simpson.]

Office Department because I find that little, if any, consideration is being given to any appeal that may come from members of this House, or to representations that come from the people of Canada whom the minister is supposed to serve.

The only product that the Post Office Department has to sell is service, and if it is not intent on rendering that service to the people of Canada it is grossly failing in its responsibilities and obligations to the people of Canada. I believe that practically every member of the House knows and has evidence, in the form of protests, in his files that the Post Office Department is not functioning as well as it used to function. I have been a member of this House for eight years, and I believe that last year I received more complaints about the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the Post Office than I did in all the previous seven years.

● (10:00 p.m.)

I am not going to deal with the situation in general tonight, although I was a bit disturbed the other day to receive an urgent letter containing an appeal about the situation in Nigeria which took nine days to come to Ottawa from the city of Toronto. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is with the blanket policy of the Minister of Communications to close all low-income post offices in the country. On May 22, 1969, the Minister of Communications wrote to me stating:

—changing conditions throughout the country, revenue post offices in many of our smaller communities are no longer required. As a consequence, early in 1967 we initiated a program to close these post offices.

In relation to a complaint that I made on June 20, 1969, the Minister of Communications stated in a letter:

In light of our current program to close all small revenue post offices we could not arbitrarily make an exception in this case.

That is the case I was appealing, Mr. Speaker. In other words, the government, through the Minister of Communications, has initiated a policy intended to close all low-income post offices whether or not they are essential to the communities they serve.

The argument the minister uses repeatedly in letters to me when I tried to have him clarify the situation can best be illustrated by saying that he is trying to fit the visitor to the bed. If his legs are too long, he cuts them off; if they are too short, he attempts to stretch them to fit the bed. To be specific, I shall