

*Post Office Act*

those who studied the situation closely would have us believe that they did because their costs are too high. I know, because I once owned a newspaper and had occasion to deal closely with its administration, that the problem is one of streamlining their operations. The minister, I believe, told us that some newspaper owners stated that if they could not benefit from those special rates, that form of subsidy from the government, they would go bankrupt and would be forced out of business.

Meanwhile, several newspapers throughout Canada will not be affected by the increase in rates. For instance, the Montreal *Dimanche Matin* has a circulation of 325,000 copies, hardly any of which are mailed. The paper is delivered otherwise. And so, in spite of a high circulation, that newspaper will not be affected.

I believe this conclusion can be reached: the problem for newspapers is more one of streamlining than one of increased rates. I therefore urge our newspaper friends to have a close look at their production and distribution system with a view to lowering costs instead of asking the government to subsidize them and pass on the costs to the small taxpayers. I fail to see the logic of the member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) who accuses the government of squeezing the small taxpayer while asking the government to have him pay for the deficits of some \$100 million, which by next year will reach \$125 or \$150 million, in order to allow newspapers to continue to prosper. Mr. Speaker, there is a lack of logic somewhere.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I presume that I shall be allowed to make a remark since my friend, the hon. member for Témiscamingue, has done me the honour of quoting me several times in this house last night, thus giving me free publicity. I hope that I may be allowed to express my views on the interventions of the hon. member for Témiscamingue, since it is the second time he speaks.

I am still waiting for the opportunity to answer him fully and, perhaps, in the same terms as he uses, because I would like to remind him—I am sorry that he is not in the house, but his colleagues will tell him what I said—that invectives and accusations do not bother me. I have met much larger and much greater opponents than the hon. member for Témiscamingue in my political career. If, in the last few years, I have perhaps become a little more moderate in answering those who

[Mr. Mongrain.]

attack me, the hon. member for Témiscamingue should not forget that I nevertheless still have a rich enough vocabulary to follow him in all the intricacies of his arguments and in his mania of hurling invectives and insults at those who do not think the way he does, even to the point of questioning their conscience.

This reminds me, Mr. Speaker—and I hope I will be forgiven for quoting something which perhaps is not a very elegant comparison—of a remark made by that firebrand, Mr. Armand Lavergne, who was a member of this house and also of the provincial legislature, and who, when once attacked by someone who was more pro-British than he, had answered, as a starter, and in a much more elaborate way:

I declare! This British bull is suddenly attacking me. Upon my word, since he is asking for it, I cannot resist playing the picador.

I am almost tempted to plagiarize the late Armand Lavergne and to say to my friend, the hon. member for Témiscamingue: If it is not this *créditiste* bull breathing defiance and pawing the ground. Since he seems so keen to fight, I cannot resist playing the picador and telling him that it is easy for him, during the discussion of a measure such as the one which we are now considering, or many others which he discussed throughout the province, in all areas where people are misinformed and destitute, thus giving more weight to this rather commonly known proverb: "It is no use preaching to a hungry man" to criticize, because he has no responsibility. He knows that he will not be called upon to solve the problems of Canada tomorrow, but I say, that he cannot pass all limits, Mr. Speaker.

One should not make political capital, lure the poor with false expectations, and act like those pirates who used to lure boats onto the reefs with flashes of light during the storm so as to grow rich on their cargo. The hon. member knows quite well that he cannot make political capital by deluding people into believing that thanks to a mysterious, magic and miraculous formula, he can solve all the problems of the citizens of Quebec or Canada. Moreover, he admits it, since he says that he has been advocating that for 35 years and others had tried to do so in other provinces and countries, but it has never been implemented.

Then, he gives rise to false expectations and delusions among the poor who need bread and concrete measures rather than airy