

*Routine Proceedings*

Running in same direction, as parallel lines; meeting at or tending to one point, existing or acting together—

Some of us have suspected a little togetherness between the NDP and the Tories across the way, but now it is all confirmed.

I was not content with that definition in the Oxford dictionary. I figured I might as well look at another dictionary, Webster's dictionary, which could perhaps this one would clarify the situation. Maybe I was misunderstanding what was being said here. The definition of "concur", according to *Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms* is:

To conjoin; to unite; to combine; to co-operate; to accord; to harmonize.

Canada was harmonized with the United States in the trade deal and now the NDP is being harmonized with the government. It goes on to define concur: "To agree, to coincide, to consent, to assent, to accede, to acquiesce". Would you believe it, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP are acquiescing with the government?

I do not know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I do not acquiesce to shutting down rural post offices in Canada. I do not acquiesce to shutting down 5,221 post offices. I do not acquiesce to the firing or laying off of 10,000 rural employees, 8,300, or 83 percent, of whom are women. I do not acquiesce, agree or consent to the largest firing of women in the history of Canada, and I certainly do not concur with that proposition.

I hope that there will be an opportunity for us to vote on this concurrence motion, because I intend to oppose the NDP's attempt to concur with this government's report. I do not want to concur with shutting down post offices in Canada. I do not want to concur with a number of things that the government is proposing here.

• (1150)

Let me summarize some of the things that I do not want to concur with. I do not want to concur with recommendation No. 2 that states:

Canada Post continue with its plans to realize a 14 per cent return on equity—

I want Canada Post to generate operating profits necessary to meet its own capital investment needs and to maintain and improve services to Canadians. That is why I do not concur with that proposition.

I do not concur with recommendation No. 3 which states:

The Government of Canada examine the feasibility of requiring Canada Post to pay corporate income tax.

I do not concur with recommendation No. 4 which states:

The Government of Canada consider the replacement of postal subsidy programs with direct recipient programs.

I want us to have those subsidy programs that help northern Canadians. I want us to have those programs that help the delivery of rural newspapers in Canada. So I do not concur with that proposition of the NDP. I do not concur with that at all.

I do not concur with recommendation No. 5 which states:

The Government of Canada endeavour to provide publishers of rural community-owned newspapers—with—financial support—

—without giving any further details of that and while allowing the government to dismantle the infrastructure subsidy program. I want the infrastructure subsidy program to continue.

I most certainly do not concur with recommendation No. 7 which states:

Canada Post discontinue its retail postal business and devote its resources to the collection, processing and delivery of mail.

Instead, my colleagues and I want Canada Post to maintain its existing retail network and to continue to devote resources to the collection, processing and delivery of mail. So I do not concur with that part of the report. I do not concur with those who produced the majority of the report, nor with those this morning who propose for us to concur with it. I cannot agree with that proposition.

This is what we are being asked to concur with this morning: "Where possible Canada Post contract out mail delivery". We are being asked by the NDP to concur with contracting out mail delivery. What is this world coming to?

We are being asked to concur with recommendation No. 33:

In the event of a disruption in postal services, Canada Post's exclusive privilege to deliver letters should be suspended—

We are being asked to concur with that this morning. Mr. Speaker, do you believe that? The minister responsible for Canada Post probably has a hard time imagining