

Government Orders

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): In 1985, Canada Post Corporation developed and announced its delivery policy including the use of community mail boxes (super mailboxes) as the equipment and mode of delivery that would be used in situations that would previously have gone to door to door delivery. The distance between customers served by the community mailbox and the equipment was established at 600 feet or 180 meters. Generally, this practice has been implemented for the largest majority of the 600,000 customers who are on the service as of 1990/91.

There are, however, circumstances where the Corporation cannot stay within the criteria due to the layout of the subdivision or municipality. In these cases, if Canada Post stayed with the criteria it would result in the boxes being placed where they were in full frontal view of several homes on the same side of the street. In these circumstances Canada Post has moved the boxes to the ends of crescents or some distance away to a place where it could find a piece of property that would accommodate the box on easement without imposing on the homeowners adjacent to the equipment. There have been other circumstance where Canada Post has been petitioned by customers to move the boxes to another location and who agreed that they didn't mind walking the extra distance.

In other circumstances Canada Post has taken the initiative and surveyed its customers. In still other circumstances municipalities have asked the Corporation to place the boxes in certain situations which exceeded the 600 foot criteria and Canada Post has solicited and received the support of the customers involved. In urban centers where the Corporation has put such exceptions into service, generally, the customers don't have to walk any more than an additional 300 feet to their community mailbox. In all cases, the Corporation has entered into discussions with the municipal representatives of those serviced by the community mailboxes.

Where Canada Post has placed community mailboxes in cluster sites in suburban and rural settings, in most cases, a portion of the customers reside more than 600 feet from the equipment and therefore have to travel greater distance.

These exceptions have occurred in a number of cities and towns from coast to coast, in most provinces. Canada

Post has endeavored to consistently apply the criteria. However, the Corporation has had to remain flexible in situations where it served the municipality, its customers or its approach to installation in a more practical fashion than sticking rigidly to the standard.

[English]

Mr. Cooper: I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANIES ACT
MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Tuesday, October 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Loiselle that Bill C-83, an act to revise and amend the law governing federal trust and loan companies and to provide for related and consequential matters, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I listened attentively as the minister presented his bill for second reading and then I read over many of his documents and his speech again to be convinced, if I could, on behalf of all Canadians that the initiative was a good one. I must confess that, upon such reflection, I remain as unconvinced as earlier regarding both the intent of Bill C-83, whom it shall benefit, as well as how it should benefit those and the objectives. In fact there are more questions that remain unanswered than those that are answered with this bill.

For example, for whom is this bill designed? Who is going to benefit? Is it going to be the customers through an equality of service, availability of service, accessibility of service, consistency and variety of service, security of deposits, or security of services? None of these questions are addressed.

Are we, in fact, designing Bill C-83 to assist depositors and investors, the clients? Are deposits going to be guaranteed, not only by the law under regulations, but by