

### Oral Questions

blush that seems to me to be a proposition which has always been rejected by Attorneys General, and would, I think, establish a very unfortunate precedent.

**Mr. Speyer:** Mr. Speaker, there is one standard for the Government and another one for individuals and corporations. That is the real problem.

#### PROSECUTION OF OTHER CORPORATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General of Canada has overriding jurisdiction and discretion on whether to proceed with a prosecution. That is at the Minister's discretion. Is it fair to prosecute the corporations that remain on the indictment, having in mind that the two Crown corporations, in furtherance of government policy, and which were the ringleaders in this scheme, are escaping prosecution? Is it fair to prosecute those private individuals and corporations?

● (1130)

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have made no decision yet as to whether to continue with the prosecution of those other individuals and companies. I am expecting, in the next day or two, a report from counsel who had special responsibility for this case. It is quite unfair for my hon. friend to suggest that the Government has not been completely open about this. As far as the prosecution is concerned, we did not even make a prosecutorial decision on our own not to proceed. We took the matter to the courts, and it is the Supreme Court of the country which has decided that the prosecution should not proceed.

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#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

##### PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PLAN

**Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour responsible for Canada Post. The recent Throne Speech, under the title "Opening the Door to Labour", said:

Workers deserve . . . an equal voice in the resolution of issues like technological change and productivity improvement.

It also said:

Selected Crown corporations . . . will be encouraged to test new methods of co-operative productivity improvement.

And finally:

Labour representatives will be invited to join the boards of directors of selected Crown corporations.

Fine phrases—but the fact is that Canada Post, the one Crown corporation which has labour representation on its Board, has been implementing a five-year plan without approval from its own board of directors and without any meaningful consultation with its unions. Will the Minister immediately agree to direct the President of Canada Post,

Michael Warren, to put a total freeze on implementation of his five-year plan until there has been genuine consultation with the various postal unions and full consideration and approval by Canada Post's own board of directors? Otherwise the Throne Speech is a sham.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is misinformed. I understand that there is a projected five-year plan that is currently being discussed which will be eventually approved early in the new year by the board of directors. Consultation is currently taking place with union representatives before a final decision on this five-year plan is taken by the board of directors. I suspect that the Hon. Member has heard about this plan because of the consultation that is currently taking place. It is a new course for the Post Office to consult with the employees on project plans. It is a welcome new opportunity. I am hopeful that the five year plan which should be approved by the board of directors in the new year will be one that will not only be supported by the administration but will be well accepted by the unions.

#### SERVICE AND HUMAN RELATIONS

**Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister has had some consultations with both the Canadian Labour Congress and some of the postal unions and he should be aware that a lot of that labour-management consultation has consisted solely of hasty phone calls and unilateral press releases by the President of the Corporation. That does not constitute consultation and good labour relations, in my books, or anybody else's. The first principle of the Canada Post Office Act is to maintain basic customer service. Rather than doing that, the Post Office has continually been putting the prime onus on financial self sufficiency—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

**Mr. Kristiansen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister has been fully apprised of the facts of the situation by the CLC and by the unions. Will the Minister undertake to direct the President of Canada Post immediately to stop breaking the law and begin to put service and human relations at the top of his Corporation's list, rather than financial self sufficiency? The unions at Canada Post have agreed to obey—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member has asked his question.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the allegation of the Hon. Member would have to be substantiated. To say that the Canada Post Corporation is breaking the law is a serious accusation. At the request of union representatives I am looking at the activities of the Corporation in order to reassure myself and Members of Parliament that the major three objectives of the Corporation, which are included in the legislation creating the Crown corporation which was passed by Parliament, are respected. So far I have not seen the type of