

Post Office Act

I am wondering why *Maclean's* should pay an increase of 136 per cent, *Reader's Digest* 100 per cent and *Time* magazine 59 per cent. The Postmaster General tried to explain the advantages of his arrangement, but with no success. He said, "This matter fits into that compartment and this other matter fits into another compartment." He did not convince anybody of the correctness of his assertions.

Perhaps the minister would tell us why he has imposed a tax on education, since this disturbs me. This tax is being imposed on professional magazines, on journals which doctors, dentists, and veterinarians receive, on journals which bring the results of modern scientific research to the professional man. Journals to do with science and education, religious magazines, law, and the arts will all cost more. The hon. member for Winnipeg North has already put this on the record.

Meeting the other day under the auspices of the Royal Society of Canada, 67 learned societies discussing items of common interest passed the following resolution unanimously:

—the representatives of sixty-seven learned and professional societies wish to draw to the attention of the Postmaster General the apparent discrimination against members of the scientific and learned professions which would result from the application of provisions of clause 11(1)0 of Bill C116 to publications of the aforementioned societies.

Now in my own field, just as an example, the Canadian Medical Association Journal issues 22,000 copies weekly to members in Canada and contains scientific material originating in Canada, material dealing with the work of clinical and medical scientists. The journal is devoted to promoting the advancement of medical knowledge. The government supports a health resources fund. On the one hand it wishes to provide training to doctors, under the health resources fund, and on the other hand it wishes to tax scientific knowledge that is brought to these doctors by journals like the Canadian Medical Association Journal. This is also the government that introduced medicare.

• (10:00 p.m.)

In 1967 the Canadian Medical Association lost \$19,443 on the publication of the association journal, and expenditures on postage under the second class rate amounted to about \$20,000. But to the end of September of this year losses amounted to almost \$65,000 mainly because of a decline in advertising by pharmaceutical companies, which have been subjected to such criticism in government

[Mr. Rynard.]

circles. I do not want to guess what the postage costs will be under the amended act, but let me say this: a voluntary association such as the Canadian Medical Association cannot long sustain substantial losses and steadily rising costs. Does the minister not realize what he is doing to the dissemination of scientific knowledge, the very thing we need so badly in this country, when there is a brain drain to the south. I would like the minister to take a long look at this and refrain from hurting education and scientific knowledge in Canada, because we are having a hard enough job competing with our friends to the south, and with their medical and scientific journals.

As a matter of fact, this proposal of the government carries us back in some ways to the stagecoach days. The minister mentioned Orillia, and I was happy to hear him mention that town. As a graduate of McGill he would know that the great humorist Stephen Leacock lived there. Anyway, a letter sent out on a Friday might not get to its destination until the following Tuesday—or if the mail were particularly heavy, it might not be seen until Wednesday. This carries us right back to stagecoach days. Is there any other country with our standard of living which is running a five-day-a-week mail service? I would like to know.

The minister has yet to explain to my satisfaction why the technology of the post office and its use of modern methods have not kept pace with the need. I believe that when the Liberal party came to power the department was showing a surplus of \$20 million. Why in the world was not more done in the scientific field to make use of advancing technology, bearing in mind the fact that the mails are used more today than ever before? I am not blaming the minister for this, because he was not responsible then.

In the scientific field the proposals here will certainly do untold damage to dissemination of scientific knowledge. The bill will do damage to many doctors who get their information on research, and the latest treatment methods, from the medical journals. Then again, why is the minister being so unfair to the post office at a time when the government is subsidizing the C.B.C. to the extent, I believe, of \$150 million? The corporation carries the same kind of advertising as do the newspapers. In my opinion this is ridiculous. The minister should have done a lot more research in this field. People would like to have the answers to these questions. They would like to be told of a better way instead