

*Increase in Publications Postage Rates***PRIVATE BILLS****CENTRAL DEL RIO OILS LIMITED**

The House resumed, from Thursday, April 29, consideration of the motion of Mr. Harries that Bill S-12, respecting Central-Del Rio Oils Limited, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

An hon. Member: On division.

Motion agreed, bill read the second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the last item under private bills is a bill standing in the name of the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Bill S-19, respecting the Royal Victoria Hospital. I gather there are procedural difficulties in relation to the petition. In any event, it has been suggested that the bill might be allowed to stand for the moment. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
FOR PAPERS****POST OFFICE****REQUEST FOR COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM ORGANIZATIONS SUGGESTING CURTAILMENT OF PUBLICATIONS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED RATES**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North) moved:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all letters received by the Postmaster General from churches, professional organizations, trade unions, co-operatives, credit unions and private organizations, indicating that as a result of the increase in postal rates they intend to discontinue or curtail their publications.

He said: Mr. Speaker, shortly after the 1968 election the then Postmaster General, the present hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans), came to the conclusion, and obviously persuaded his Cabinet colleagues, that the postal service of this country should be put on a paying basis and that postal delivery should not be subsidized or at least not subsidized as much as previously. Therefore, there were very sharp increases in the cost of mail deliveries. There were increases in the cost of first class letters, in the cost of second class mail and a very sharp increase, running anywhere from 100 per cent to 1,000 per cent, in respect of the rates charged on publications issued by various organizations.

The organizations affected covered a wide range. There were trade unions, co-operatives, credit unions and educational and scientific organizations which issue publications of great importance to their members and to the general public in the sense that they disseminate as

[Mr. Speaker.]

widely as possible the most important basic scientific information in their fields. The increases implemented by the Postmaster General, and by the government, in a desire to wipe out the deficit created by the delivery of various types of mail has had a very adverse affect on a large number of organizations and their publications. I maintain that without newspapers, magazines, weeklies, monthlies and scientific and educational journals, one cannot really expect a country, certainly not a country as diverse and large in area as Canada, to survive as a country. This country is under permanent assault. I do not say this in a critical manner but as a statement of fact.

• (5:10 p.m.)

The survival of this country, as a country, is under permanent assault by the United States of America, not because they deliberately want to harm this country or wipe it out but simply because the richest country in the world lies next to Canada and has a population ten times as large. There is a tremendous flow of printed material from that country to this, as there is a tremendous flow of material from radio and television. Canadian publications of all types are finding it increasingly difficult to survive.

When I set this motion down I was not concerned about commercial publications or profit making publications like *Chatelaine*, *Macleans*, *Saturday Night* and a host of others; I was concerned about publications issued by organizations almost exclusively for their own members. Sometimes these publications are necessary for the survival of the organizations, but a large number of them have gone under.

I should like to point out to the minister in charge of the Post Office that the newspaper issued by the Confederation of National Trade Unions, probably the best of its type in Canada, ceased publication almost immediately after postal rates were increased by the former postmaster general. Other publications too numerous to list here have ceased; many which were weekly switched to monthly or quarterly publications and those which were monthly decided to publish quarterly or twice a year. I could give endless examples, because they are all in my file, of postage increases ranging from 100 per cent to 1,000 per cent which made it impossible for organizations to continue publication.

The former postmaster general had an easy and stock answer to the complaints made by hundreds of these organizations. He said that they should not expect the taxpayers of Canada to subsidize them and that it should not be difficult for them to increase their dues structure to cover payment for the publication. I say to the minister in charge of the Post Office that if he does not know what happened to the publication of the CNTU he should inquire from his colleague the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) who was president for some years. I am sure the minister will substantiate my statement that this vital and aggressive organization decided that it should not raise its membership dues so the only alternative, because of the increased postal rates, was to discontinue publication.