

*Canada Post Corporation Act*

previously rise, and for that reason I was recognizing hon. gentlemen in that order. Perhaps during the dinner hour the two hon. gentlemen can sort things out to their own satisfaction. If not, the Chair will clear the matter up.

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When the debate was interrupted at six o'clock the hon. member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid) had the floor.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, being an old broadcaster, I should like to bring our television audience and the audience in the galleries today up-to-date on what we are debating, namely; the following motion:

That Bill C-42, an act to establish the Canada Post Corporation, to repeal the Post Office Act and other related Acts and to make related amendments to other Acts,—

We are discussing motion No. 1 which is the amendment to Bill C-42 introduced by my colleague for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn).

My concern about Bill C-42 and the motion my colleague has introduced stems from the monopoly the post office seems to want to obtain through Bill C-42. This bill, as probably one of the solutions to the problems we have experienced in the post office, has been held up for a very long time by the post office, its unions, the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) and the government of the day. It has been said that once a Crown corporation has been established a lot of the labour problems, a lot of the mail delivery problems will disappear. The minister assured me when we met a week or so ago, that mail delivery will be available to new areas.

The hopes of the Canadian people are very high for this bill. They hope that once it is passed and a Crown corporation is established to run the post office, things will improve. I, for one, hope those desires come true. I must say that in the last year or so the complaints I have received from my constituents in Brampton-Georgetown regarding the post office have been very significant, and they have increased. The minister gave me an appointment and we discussed this problem. He is hopeful, I am hopeful and we are all hopeful in this House that once the post office becomes a Crown corporation, many of these difficulties will disappear.

If the problems persist, then I think it is fair to say to the Canadian people that they should have an option, and that the post office should not have a monopoly. People should have the freedom of choice about how they want their catalogues and their bills delivered. In my area, Consumers' Gas and the hydroelectric service hand deliver their bills as was touched upon by my colleague, the hon. member for Mississauga

South, in the region of Peel the people want to be assured that this can be done if the post office fails them.

I promised to be brief tonight, Mr. Speaker. Since my friend from the New Democratic Party was a little aggravated that he was not recognized before me, and because there were some Tory speakers ahead of him, I promised to be brief. I will be, but there are two points I want to make.

First, I am concerned about small groups such as air cadets, boy scouts and girl guides who, for a small fee, in order to raise funds, will drop off a notice of a meeting of a community or political association in a community. I am concerned that they might get into a lot of trouble with the post office if we do not adopt motion No. 1, which is an amendment to define a "letter". This would allow groups such as these, and public utilities, to deliver their own material. I know in my area the youth groups participate in this service for community organizations which are then assured that delivery is made on time. I would hate to see young people deprived of that privilege.

I would ask the minister tonight to give an explanation to the House why, in good sense, he would not accept this amendment introduced by the hon. member for Mississauga South. I think it makes great sense. Surely the remarks of the hon. member for Yorth North (Mr. Gamble), the hon. member for Mississauga South and myself have convinced the minister that this amendment should be incorporated in the bill. It does not take anything away from the bill and it would assure those groups of a privilege they have enjoyed in Canada.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Wright).

**Mr. Parker:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker) on a point of order.

**Mr. Parker:** Mr. Speaker, it was identified that I would be the next speaker. I did step aside for the hon. member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** If the hon. member for Calgary North agrees, I will recognize the hon. member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke.

**Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to speak on behalf of the New Democratic Party on this amendment introduced by the hon. member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). The committee sat long and tedious hours. Sometimes there were three committee meetings in a day to discuss the matters put forward in this bill. As a member of that committee, I resent the fact that we have to go through all this again tonight in order to discuss this amendment.

I should like to comment on the definition of postal mail. The fact of the matter is that we were lobbied by large groups, some of which sat through every committee meeting. For example, courier service delegations sat through those commit-