

*Government Orders*

Corporation to get a complete list of all facilities that were affected.

Let me just share with the House some of the facilities that in fact have no service or fewer services than they did in the past: Marion Pharmacy, Metro Drugs on Autumnwood Drive in my constituency, McCullough Drugs, Taché Pharmacy, and one that has taken on some significant interest of late, the community of St. Germain.

Recently I sent out a survey in which I asked people: Would you list for me the concerns that you have and tell me what is bothering you. They had lost their post office. It had been changed to an alternative service. They said that there was an inconsistency in service. Sometimes it is good service. Sometimes it is lamentable. They could not count on it.

There are people, for example, who will go to St. Vital, just a short distance away, because if they send a letter from St. Germain they tell me it could take a week. If they send it from St. Vital it will perhaps go at the speed it should and will arrive on time. They point out they are designated as a rural area. That decision is an arbitrary one because they are in fact a small community. By virtue of their being labelled as such they do not get the same kind of consideration as do adjoining urban communities.

The fact that they are called rural as opposed to urban works in their disfavour. They also point out that with the current facilities available there are flyers lying all over the place. It is polluting the environment. It is making their community not at all as attractive as it might have been. They point out that they are receiving flyers late. They get a flyer for a sale, look at the date and realize that the sale is over. That is really quite inefficient. I am sure that you will agree with me, Mr. Speaker.

They also point out that their supermailboxes are close to a highway where the traffic is very rapid and where it is a real safety concern, particularly when there are children involved. They are complaining and their complaints are legitimate. We need to address these concerns, the pollution of the environment, the safety factors, and the fact that it is not nearly as efficient as it was.

What is Canada Post doing about situations such as the ones I have mentioned?

[*Translation*]

And those are not the only concerns which my constituents shared with me. They often mentioned services in French. As you know, Mr. Speaker, that issue is very dear to me. Because of these cuts and reductions and decisions by Canada Post, there is less service in French for the French-speaking people in my riding, and I find that deplorable.

I have here a letter dated February 14 from a constituent in which he says how much difficulty this causes him. Before, he could go to a post office located nearby and receive services in French. Now, he must go a very long way to receive the same services or else accept services in the other official language. I find that completely unfair. The government had an excellent opportunity to remedy all those problems. But what did it do instead?

[*English*]

The government came forward with a bill that attempts to suggest that employees are going to be better off. If we look at the press releases from the unions and the workers, we find they do not think they are going to be better off. They think this is a smoke-screen for what the government eventually intends to do, that is to privatize the post office. They see no benefits whatsoever for the workers.

I have to agree with them. Perhaps the intent was noble. I do not know that, but the precisions are not there. What is the worth of the shares? Where are the details? If you and I, Mr. Speaker, were to buy shares, we would like to have a few details and so would they. Here is another opportunity for the government that has been blown again.

At the same time as it introduced this scheme it could have asked: Why do we not look at some of the concerns of Canadian citizens with respect to mail service? Why do we not look at the whole notion of supermailboxes? Why do we not look at the concerns they have for reductions in services, sometimes in both official languages? Why do we not look at the concerns of inefficiency and efficiency? Why do we not look at the concerns of costs? Why do we not address the concerns of Canadians with respect to postal services? It had that opportunity and unfortunately probably suggested that it should not be followed up.