

Post Office Act

Mr. Harris: That is right.

Mr. Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare): I think that is an absolutely correct interpretation.

Mr. McIvor: The reason I voted against this bill was that I thought it stimulated liquor advertising. If I am wrong I will take a back seat, and I will tell the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that if he is not correct his speech was misleading.

Mr. Knowles: The hon. member for Fort William was right the first time. I may say also that the hon. member for Eglinton and the parliamentary assistant to the Postmaster General in my view are correct in their statements that no change results in the passing of this bill with respect to magazines that are for circulation in Ontario. So far as the magazine I talked about is concerned, the picture is quite clear. There is no change in respect of its Ontario circulation. It is printed in Toronto at present, but it is ostensibly published in Montreal and is mailed from Montreal into Ontario. That situation with respect to the issues going to Ontario would not be changed one iota. We agree on that. But there will be a distinct change with respect to the many thousands of copies of *Maclean's* magazine which are printed in Ontario for distribution into the other nine provinces. At the present time, because of the Ontario liquor control act and because of the federal act, they have to be trucked to Montreal, mailed there (a) so as not to break the Ontario law and (b) so as to get the cheap rate of postage. When this bill is passed, if it passes, it will be possible for those many thousands of *Maclean's* magazines which are printed in Toronto for distribution to the other nine provinces to be mailed from Toronto at the cheap rate of postage. In other words, Mr. Chairman, I contend that this bill will facilitate a firm like *Maclean's* magazine getting around the Ontario law in that it will in effect publish, since it is printing it there, a magazine in Toronto for circulation to the rest of Canada. It is facilitating an attempt to get around the Ontario law against publishing liquor advertising; at the same time they will get the cheap rates set out in section 11 of the Post Office Act. I submit the hon. member for Fort William was perfectly right the first time when he voted with us against this bill.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, in so far as hon. members were informed, the bill before us on second reading with which we have dealt simply covered the principle of distribution points for mailing purposes. We are now dealing with the details of the bill. In a large

[Mr. Fleming.]

measure we are dependent upon the explanations given by the government as to the effect of that bill. Certainly, I would not support any measure, either on second reading or in the committee stage, that had as an indirect or direct effect the circumvention of any provincial law in regard to advertising or any other matter over which they have jurisdiction in connection with the sale, distribution and other details connected with liquor.

I do want to interject at this point that there is one statement made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre with which I must take issue. I do not believe there is any such thing as cheap postage in Canada, anyway.

Mr. Knowles: With that I agree. It was a relative term.

Mr. Drew: Well, relative or otherwise, I do not think it is an accurate term. In any event it is not changed by this bill. There is nothing in this bill that affects the postal rates. As I understand it—and it is upon that understanding that I voted on second reading and that I am now approaching this, unless I can be shown otherwise—this bill provides a facility that is available to publishers in the United States for the more effective distribution of their publications, under which there are designated points to which they can send their publications in bulk and from which they can then be posted for simultaneous delivery throughout the whole country. Unless there is something hidden in this, which I am unable to see, then it would seem that our publishers should have the same facilities for distribution as are available to those south of the line who are carrying on similar activities, particularly in a large country like this.

There is one point about which there can be no question whatever other than the effect that may flow from it. It is that this does not directly or indirectly change the application of the Ontario law in respect of liquor advertising. There can be no question about that. What other consequences flow from it I admit perhaps might be more accurately explained than has yet been done. It is clear that nothing contained in this act can in any way circumvent any provincial law regarding advertising of liquor in any way.

So far as I am concerned, on the basis of the information before me, I am dealing with this, both on the second reading with which we have dealt and the sections before us, on the understanding that this is giving a facility for the distribution of publications.

I have yet to see anything in this measure that produces the result which has been