

I do not want to discuss now the value of the regulations, though I still object to some of them, especially at the rural level, but it is a fact that social communications and objective information between the management of the Post Office Department and the employees have been broken off for too long for unknown reasons.

Mr. Speaker, not only would it be advisable but it would also be important that the department consider setting up an efficient service directed by experts in social relations and information. Such a service could be operated according to the well-known and efficient method of "social animation" for employees as well as for management.

In the labour world, Mr. Speaker, what strikes us every day are the conflicts between management and labour. Several facts indicate how the harmonious relations between both parties have deteriorated.

In this connection the department should set the example and show the way to more harmonious relations by allowing the workers to be more than mere numbers or slaves and the employer to be more humane.

● (2:20 p.m.)

Moreover, working conditions and standards, wages, labour contracts should be the subject of free discussion, under the leadership of a special social animation service, the responsibility of which would be to promote to the maximum the establishment of harmonious relations between management and labour, while giving complete, objective and accurate information to employees, in order that they may be in a position to understand better their own working conditions and to get on well among themselves.

With all the available means of social communication, Mr. Speaker, the present conditions are unacceptable. And the most responsible party in those circumstances is the Post Office Department which is still operated according to out-of-date administrative concepts which tend to keep at a minimum contacts and even discussions, between management and labour.

In my opinion, those administrative concepts are outmoded, and the department would certainly do well if it innovated in the field of information and dialogue with its employees. The minister tried to tell us today that there is really no danger of a strike or work stoppage, but we remain convinced that there is such a risk. At the moment, the Post Office employees multiply their meetings, and rightly so.

Five Day Postal Delivery

Mr. Speaker, we hope the minister will take the necessary steps to prevent another conflict, because considering the evasive statement that he has just made, we still do not know what practical measures he proposes to take.

[English]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville) moved that the second report of the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments, presented to the house on Friday, February 14, 1969 be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING ADMINISTRATION, POWERS OF LIBRARIAN, ETC.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the Secretary of State) moved that Bill C-171, respecting the National Library, be read a first time and printed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENTS DEFINING VARIOUS TERMS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXERCISE OF POWERS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the President of the Treasury Board) moved that bill C-172, to amend the Financial Administration Act be read a first time and printed.

Motion agreed to, bill read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the bill be read a second time?

An hon. Member: At the next sitting of the house.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY, AND OTHER NEW DEPARTMENTS

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved that Bill C-173, an act respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters relating or incidental thereto, be now read the first time and be printed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.