

Postal Service

time did the committee feel we were going to get less service following an increase in rates. This is the problem today. I do not think there is any member of this house or any person in all of Canada who goes to the post office to buy a stamp who does not realize he is paying more and getting less service.

Last fall when the Post Office bill, Bill C-116 was before this house we in the opposition begged and pleaded with the minister—and even moved an amendment—to refer the bill to a committee so that organizations, companies, newspapers and individuals who were going to be affected could appear before the committee. But the minister would not listen. He said, “no; I have given you a white paper. We will ram this through.” He rammed it through and now where does he find himself? He begged for the bill to go to the committee. What do we find now? Newspapers are dying by the week. Many have gone out of business. They were denied a hearing before the committee, and this has happened. I believe much of this distress could have been avoided had the minister allowed the bill to go to a committee where hearings could have been held. Then there were the surveys which the minister has had. Some of the information contained in these survey reports was not according to the facts. The Postmaster General was told in the case of one newspaper that the papers had to be sorted and carted here and there. Now we find this is not the case. The newspapers are delivered in bags which are already addressed.

The minister mentioned the training of personnel and what little the Conservatives did about this. I do not wish to become involved in politics in respect of this matter. I may say, however, that with the untrained men we apparently had then better service was given than is given today. With untrained men, we had excellent delivery. We did not have a situation like this: a letter from my home city of Guelph was posted Monday night at six o'clock. It went through the stamping machine at eleven o'clock on Monday night and arrived on my desk this afternoon, Thursday. This is five day delivery and we used to have next day delivery.

Before you rise, Mr. Speaker, to advise me that my time has expired I should like to ask what the answer is. I know the Postmaster General wants to get out of this mumbo-jumbo in which he finds himself in respect of the Post Office Department. I think the only

[Mr. Hales.]

answer is to return to the six day a week delivery.

There is not another country in the world which attempts to deliver a week's mail in five days. It is not done in the United States. We in Canada, however, think we can deliver a week's mail in five days. It has been proven now that we cannot do it and at the same time give service. We are paying more for less. If the people were dealing with something else they could go to another store and obtain better service, but in this case they do not have that opportunity. It is up to the government and parliament to provide the people of Canada with more service for the amount of money they are paying.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. It being 9.45 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to section (9) of Standing Order 58 to interrupt these proceedings and forthwith put every question in respect of the proceedings now before the house.

The question is on the amendment to the main motion. All those in favour of the amendment please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Those opposed please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Call in the members.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Benjamin), which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs.

Aiken	Gilbert
Alexander	Gleave
Alkenbrack	Grills
Barnett	Gundlock
Bell	Hales
Bigg	Hees
Broadbent	Howe
Burton	Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)
Caouette	Lambert (Edmonton West)
Carter	La Salle
Code	Lewis
Crouse	MacDonald (Egmont)
Danforth	MacEwan
Dinsdale	MacInnis
Dionne	MacInnis (Mrs.)
Downey	Macquarrie
Forrestall	
Gauthier	