

*Postal Service*

Mr. Speaker, there are laws to stop fellows like that from speaking like that and stirring up the workers in Canada. It is precisely because such people are tolerated, feared, that lamentable results such as those which are now seen in the Post Office Department come about.

Mr. Speaker, every hon. member insists that our postal employees are well treated. However, it is another thing to be threatened by people who never accomplished anything in Canada and are ready to stir up people on one against another. The Postmaster General should have been firmer on some occasions.

For example, the minister knows very well that the five-day week service does not serve the people well. He knows very well that the closing down of post offices is not right for the people. Nevertheless, small post offices are closed down, employees are laid off, and the five-day week is imposed, while the mail accumulates in post offices during two days, and delivery is delayed.

The present postal service in Canada is a disgrace, as I said earlier. The system is not satisfactory. We are in a mess because the minister was afraid.

When the minister will decide to stand up, to make the facts known to the people concerned, I am convinced that postal rates might be cut, because it is imperative.

Moreover, second class privileges should be granted to Canadian publications; since the population should be informed instead of being punished.

Also, a fuller, better and speedier service should be provided, because we keep getting complaints from everywhere.

I referred to one complaint, but I received a number of them when I visited western Canada. The same thing happens in the East.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the minister has achieved—as I said at the beginning of my remarks—perfect national unity. He has antagonized everybody across the country with his new legislation. Since everyone has the same complaint, I would ask him, for the sake of national unity, to reconsider his position and to improve the Post Office Act so that all Canadians will be better disposed towards the government and especially towards the Postmaster General.

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I must first make a rectification.

The following newspapers mentioned by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr.

Caouette) were not granted special privileges: *Logos, Canada-Vietnam News Letter, The Workers Vanguard, The American in Exile in Canada, The Communist Viewpoint* and *The Progressive Worker*.

[English]

I have listened to the speeches of hon. members opposite and I should like to say right away that although some of their criticisms and complaints are justified—and specific complaints are what we are looking for in order to enable us to do a better job—in order to investigate them we should like to have the actual envelopes in our hands so that we can trace where the delays are. So many of these delayed letters come from other countries. There are parcels from the United Kingdom that had to come through New York where there was a three-month dock strike.

**Mr. Thompson:** No, we have examples right here.

**Mr. Kierans:** Then give them to us and we will investigate them. This is the best chance we can have to find out what are the weak points in the Post Office administration. I think we have had enough of these wild generalizations.

All that has been said so far in this debate and anything that remains to be said was said far better just under one year ago, and I want to quote a certain comment:

—Post Office faces a crisis. Each year it slips further behind the rest of the economy in service, in efficiency and in meeting its responsibilities as an employer. Each year it operates at a huge financial loss. No one realizes the magnitude of this crisis more than the postal managers and employees who daily bear the staggering burden of moving the nation's mail. The remedy lies beyond their control.

I deliberately omitted three words from that quotation, Mr. Speaker. In the original quotation the first sentence commenced:

The United States Post Office faces a crisis.

That quotation is taken from the report of the Presidential task force on the United States Post Office.

**Mr. Thompson:** Why do we have to learn from the United States?

**Mr. Kierans:** Mr. Speaker, I did not interrupt the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) with one word. Although our Post Office can stand comparison and come out on top by almost any measure, the quotation itself could apply almost unchanged to