

Government Orders

If in fact workers in the public sector, in this House, and others in Canada are receiving zero salary increases for, on the government's argument, good reasons in its view then why is this group of people, this strata of privileged people getting performance bonuses? We certainly are supporting that if no one gets a salary increase, these people do not get performance bonuses as well.

I think it is important for us to consider who is getting performance bonuses. If we are talking about the Crown corporations, which I hope are included in this bill, there is some question about whether we are going to have to amend when we go to committee stage to ensure they are included.

Let us look at this. The senior executives of CN, PetroCanada, and Canada Post, the top guys all earn \$300,000 a year and they still get a performance bonus? That alone speaks volumes about where this government is going. Those who are privileged and special get a bonus; those who are the workers and the people who in fact produce the productivity in our public sector are the ones whose wages are frozen.

• (1200)

The place for salary increases is at the bargaining table, in the area where the union and free collective bargaining process should be taking over. Those who are the managers and the corporate elite should be doing it at their own bargaining table when they establish their salaries, not getting this backhanded bonus at the end of every year.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

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[*Translation*]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-17, an act to amend the Copyright Act,

the Industrial Design Act, the Integrated Circuit Topography Act, the Patent Act, the Trade-Marks Act and other acts in consequence thereof, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Friday, February 5, consideration of Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and on Motions Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure to speak on Bill C-73 today. I really wish there were more positive things I could say about the bill and about Canada Post, because I know a lot of the employees of Canada Post. I meet them in my constituency and in Ottawa. They are fine people who are trying to provide an excellent service, but I regret that the environment and circumstances under which they are struggling to do their best are very difficult.

They are made difficult by the government and have been so since 1984, particularly 1986 when a corporate plan was announced essentially affecting rural Canada. More specifically 5,221 rural post offices were to be closed, privatized, amalgamated or whatever, laying off 10,000 people and affecting hundreds of thousands of Canadians in rural Canada.

It should be apparent to the government and to members who sit across the way who have to support this government initiative that in rural Canada it probably ranks with the goods and services tax and with the 38 tax measures in the last eight and one-half years of this government as being a very unpopular measure.

I know that running a country is not easy. They have to take some lumps for the unpopular decisions they have to make to achieve the leadership they have to show irrespective of party. The public outcry is so great that tens of thousands of petitions have been presented, crying out to be heard, crying out to reconsider the