

*Supply—Post Office*

the 2,500 mark, but we were informed that we could not have a letter carrier service. If the minister will say that the matter will be reviewed I shall have nothing more to say.

**Mr. Lapointe:** I can assure the hon. member that the case of Dauphin will be reviewed. However, it would be reviewed without any action on the part of the minister, because that is done automatically by that division of the department. As I mentioned before, when the request has been made a survey is carried out, and if it is found that the conditions cannot be met the matter is kept under continuous review and as the area develops it may be able to meet the minimum standards and the service would be established without any further request being made.

**Mr. Monteith:** Can the minister indicate the policy followed in listing the telephone numbers of the post office in the telephone directories?

**Mr. Lapointe:** I am told that the telephone number of a post office is listed in the telephone directory only in cases where there is a letter carrier service. Otherwise the number is not listed, the reason being that where such numbers have been listed the postmaster found that he spent a good deal of his time answering telephone requests as to whether there was mail for a particular individual.

**Mr. Monteith:** It is listed only where there is a carrier service?

**Mr. Lapointe:** It may be that there are one or two cases where it is not listed, but we are not aware of any.

**Mr. Gillis:** I am aware of quite a few places where there is a letter carrier service and the telephone number is not listed, and I think rightly so.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** What percentage of first-class mail is actually airborne?

**Mr. Lapointe:** I am informed that about 50 per cent of first class mail is for local delivery, and that approximately 60 per cent of the remainder would be carried by air mail.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** That means that about 70 per cent of the people who are paying first-class postage are subsidizing the other 30 per cent who are having their mail airborne.

**Mr. Hamilton (York West):** Can the minister give the committee any information about the demolition of the building at York and Fleet streets in Toronto?

**Mr. Lapointe:** That question would be more appropriate for the Department of Public

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

Works, as we have nothing to do with the actual buildings we occupy.

Item agreed to.

325. Operations—including salaries and other expenses of staff post offices, district offices, railway mail service staffs, and supplies, equipment and other items for revenue post offices, also including administration, \$81,501,011.

**Mr. Hansell:** I am pleased to learn that the department is kind to dumb animals, but I should like to ask the minister if a little more kindness could not be shown on occasion to members of the human family. I have in mind the small town postmaster who is not on pension, but who after a long term of service finds his services no longer required. I have a particular case in mind, where the post office in a small community was closed and where the postmaster had served the community for 26 years. By reason of faster train service and perhaps one or two other factors, the post office was closed and the district was turned into a rural route district service post office in a larger community. The postmaster's services were no longer required.

During the 26 years this postmaster never failed to meet the trains and dispatch and receive mail. Rain or shine, 40 below zero or summertime, he was on the job. Now, in the letter he writes to me, he says:

Small salaries, thus unpensionable, at over 65, the postmastership abruptly terminated with no appreciation or word of thanks, though I note inspectors ride up and down the province presenting ribbons or medals to longish term operators of stamp wickets, etc.

I shall not take any more time on this, but I wonder whether the minister could tell the house whether or not some provision cannot be written into the regulations respecting some form of compensation for these postmasters, even though it may be on a contributory basis. Is it not possible to bring those people into some sort of pension plan?

**Mr. Lapointe:** If the hon. member would provide me with the name of the particular post office in the case he mentioned, I should be glad to look into it. The rule now is that a full-time postmaster whose minimum salary is \$900 or more will be superannuated.

**Mr. Hansell:** I shall bring the particular case to the minister's attention.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** The Postmaster General did not reply to a number of points I raised earlier, to one or two of which a reply might be expected. Before pointing them out to him, I should say that I thought his answer to the two points he dealt with, that is the discrepancies in staff gradings as between the two cities and the