

reveal the names of those services would only demoralize even more the postal workers assigned to these services. Besides, this study was conducted in 1975, so it is already nearly three years old. Corrective measures have been taken since, therefore the current situation is somewhat different. We are in 1978, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the recommendations in the Hay report require, in some cases, very drastic changes. By revealing these recommendations, we would only create concern and anxiety among the employees who would start asking themselves questions such as: Will I lose my job? Will my promotion opportunities be reduced? A conflict might arise between the various services, which would only contribute to lower the morale of the staff.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member is getting at. I wonder if he is serious when he asks the same question twice, three times, even. This is the second time he asks the question and he knew the answer before I gave it. I answered him on April 6, 1978, as reported at page 4,215 of *Hansard*. I get the impression that the hon. member is more interested in downgrading the post office by his questions and interventions—of course, to political advantage—than in working constructively to better the image of the post office, its workers and management.

[Translation]

Furthermore Mr. Speaker, why come back to a report published in 1975 when we have one which is recent?

[English]

The hon. member compares the Hay report to some of the reports in the U.S.A. He told us how efficient and how perfect was the United States post office.

Mr. Dinsdale: No. they have problems, but they recognize them.

Mr. Lamontagne: For his information, so that he can tell his constituents how the post office is doing in the United States, I will give him some of the reports I have from 1978, not from 1975. The Liberal party lives in 1978, it does not live in 1975. Three years have passed and problems have changed since 1975.

Mr. Dinsdale: You can say that! We have gone downhill.

Mr. Lamontagne: I should like to mention something to the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) which he will recognize, I think, because apparently he might have some part of the Hay report—he indicated that maybe he had it, I don't know, but I would like to read this to him:

Both the U.K. and the United States have moved in the direction of Crown corporations for their post offices. Neither country seems to have solved its problems. They have experienced greater rate increases and larger deficits even than Canada.

The hon. member for Brandon-Souris must, surely, remember reading that passage.

Post Office

Mr. Dinsdale: I was over there last week and I read it.

Mr. Lamontagne: I will read, too, from an article which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* in 1978, not in 1975. This is what it says about the actual situation of the post office in the United States. The date is January 4, 1978:

The new postal agency was designed to be run by professional managers, immune to political pressures. It has become clear after seven years of experience that this idyllic arrangement doesn't work.

Here is another citation, this one from the *Washington Post* dated March 22, 1978—not 1975, the year mentioned by the hon. member. We are in 1978 now, don't forget.

Postal officials who are trying to run the United States post office like a corporation say they must be allowed to automate certain operations and initiate a number of other economies which will eliminate jobs. The U.S. post office has already asked permission to raise the price of a first class stamp this year from 13 cents to 16 cents.

Mr. Speaker, ours will be the lowest rate in the world when they have raised their rate to 16 cents.

Legislation now before the House will revamp the United States post office and dramatically increase taxpayers subsidies to hold down rates and stave off service cuts.

The post office is a Crown corporation there. Is that what you want us to become in Canada? I cite another United States newspaper. Again, the date is 1978:

The U.S. postal service set up as a government corporation in 1970 under the postal reorganization act which transformed the post office from a public service into a so-called public utility, has failed and is dead.

We on this side are much more progressive and we want to live with the problem in 1978. At the moment we are in the stage of conciliation with CUPW. It is going smoothly.

Mr. Dinsdale: Preserve the status quo!

Mr. Lamontagne: We have a study group set up which will look intelligently at this issue and not necessarily affirm that we want a Crown corporation at any cost.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hour for private members' business has expired. I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.