

*Government Organization*

oversee through the back door those people whom the electors of Canada have already chosen to be their representatives here, as poorly educated or poorly informed as we may be. There should be team work. I know that the present Postmaster General, who is an academician as well as a parliamentarian, can see the practicality involved in putting these things together. There is a need to close ranks and fight this thing together.

The present situation in which the Postmaster General finds himself with regard to strikes is probably due, I believe, to the fact that he has not held his portfolio very long. When the rates of pay are increased in one section of the Post Office this does not necessarily mean that everything is fixed up somewhere else. One can be lulled into a false feeling of security. I believe the minister has probably learned by now that one should never use force to counteract force, and a strike is a form of force, unless one is prepared to carry it through. I found that out from my police work. I never attempted to arrest a man unless I had a warrant in my pocket and the right under the law to do it.

These people are experienced in their line. They have done their homework in respect of labour law. They know how far public opinion is prepared to go; they know how far they have gone before and they know how loath governments are to risk their future. We are all expendable. The minister is as expendable as I am as a private member. It may be a sad experience to find out just how lonesome one can be in a situation like this. One should not bluff. There are a great many of us who understand the responsibility the minister has. When one puts forth his best efforts to provide services there is every excuse for a little haste, but the people are unforgiving; they do not understand. All they know is that the mail is late and sometimes they even become angry when they think it might be late. They do not know the time that has been spent by the minister and others in an effort to thresh out these things.

We too are worried because the unrest appears to be just another outbreak of the unrest that is everywhere. I believe the press and other news media should be tolerant. The seriousness of a situation like this should never be exaggerated. We should all be ready to give positive help if we can and try to consider what we would do if we were in the same situation. I am very aware that the position of the minister is a most unenviable one. By and large the postal system in Canada

is one of which we can be proud. I only hope that there will be a satisfactory solution to this matter. I hope that when the minister is thinking of the problems that lie ahead he will make use of the good will there is in this house. If it is necessary to cut new ground, then let us cut new ground even at a time when things do not look too good in the minister's department. This may be one of those times when the darkest hour comes before the dawn.

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few remarks particularly in respect of the Crown corporation which is being mooted for the Post Office Department. Before we get into a kettle of fish such as the Crown corporation that the Postmaster General is thinking of setting up, I believe it would be worth while to know first of all what the cost of this creation will be. When we look into the cost to the Canadian people we find that already it has cost over \$250,000 for a preliminary report. I see the minister is not in his seat so I cannot direct my question to him. Perhaps the reason he is having trouble with Post Office employees can be related to the matter of communication. I think the people are entitled to know what control they will have over this corporation. If it turns out to be a monster, what will happen?

● (4:20 p.m.)

I have heard over and over again ministers suggest in this house under questioning that crown corporations are independent bodies, that we have nothing to do with them and that we must not interfere in their operation. This is the answer we expect to get even though the cost may go up and up. We will have the same control we now have over the C.B.C., whose expenditures have skyrocketed year by year. The representatives of the people will have no control. As someone suggested the other day, perhaps this move is a foxy way of getting rid of the word "royal". I suppose this word will disappear from use in respect of Post Office services. This is just another calculated reorganizational move similar to that which took place in regard to the Queen's Printer, who has now become temporarily in absentia. Instead of making what some people might interpret as sinister moves the Postmaster General should be looking after the periodicals and farm papers which will be going broke and out of business on account of high postal rates. At the same time, United States publications are being subsidized to the tune of \$1.5 million.