

*Government Organization*

This is a group that expected its postal bills would increase from, say, \$15,000 to \$60,000. Their postal bills went all the way up to \$228,000 a year. Says the *Legion* editorial:

• (9:30 p.m.)

These new rates will put many fraternal and trade publications out of business.

If this is good management of a government department by a minister, then I would hate to see an example of poor management. This policy, which must have been studied by someone in the department, is wreaking havoc in an important part of our communications life.

In addition to these outrageous increases, there is the problem of slow mail delivery. In a November issue, the *Register* put it as well as anybody could. The *Register* is published in Kingston but it has offices in Toronto. This editorial reads:

The Toronto papers reach that city by 2 a.m. Thursday morning. Yet in some cases, those papers do not reach Toronto parishes before the following Wednesday.

By that time the news in them is about as up to date as the Old Testament. The editorial goes on to say:

Occasionally, papers addressed to the *Register's* Toronto office, which is within walking distance of the main Toronto post office, will not be delivered until the following Monday.

Again, I say that the duty of the Postmaster General was not to dabble and meddle in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization but rather to concern himself with the proper functioning of the Canadian mailing system. I say that in this he has failed Canadians and this parliament abysmally. It is strange that a man who is supposed to communicate has employed a method of communication that has been less than satisfactory and has become embroiled in labour difficulties that have been noted in the debate today.

Finally, I should like to draw to the attention of the committee a curious provision. The section which we are now considering, dealing with the establishment of a Department of Communications, deletes the requirement of the former legislation that the headquarters of the Post Office be established in Ottawa. I notice that this requirement has gone by the board with the establishment of the Department of Communications. I hope to have an explanation of this change before this part of the bill is passed.

[Mr. McCleave.]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Chairman, earlier this evening the Postmaster General refused me the courtesy of allowing me to conclude my remarks. I did not intend to resume the debate at this time but after thinking about the matter I should like to say that it is the first time in my 18 years in the House of Commons that a minister of the Crown has not extended that courtesy when requested. It is that situation that prompts me to re-enter the debate at this time. Other hon. members have expressed concern at the Postmaster General's refusal to listen to reasonable suggestions that are made from this side of the house. The Postmaster General is not now in the Montreal stock exchange; he is in the high court of parliament where members of parliament who represent their constituencies in the various and diverse regions of Canada have a duty and an obligation to speak on behalf of their constituents. That is precisely what I was doing when I spoke in the debate earlier tonight. The Postmaster General referred to that as wasting time, and as the debate proceeds I have come to the conclusion that perhaps he is right in this regard. No matter what anybody said on this side or on the government side of the house I am sure it would make not the slightest impact on the Postmaster General. He is like the fellow who said: "Do not confuse me with facts, my mind is already made up".

The issue that I brought before the house was a fundamental one and I am not the only one to have raised the point. I will continue to raise it as long as there is an opportunity to do so because it is of the greatest importance to western Canada, the area which I represent. The *Winnipeg Free Press*, which is the organ of the Liberal Party in my province, Manitoba, has belaboured the point in and out of season. One of its outstanding columnists, Mr. John Robertson, in commenting recently on the Postmaster General's refusal to listen to advice and to reasonable suggestions said that the Postmaster General has been urging Canada to withdraw and resign from NATO but perhaps it would be much better for the Government of Canada and the people of Canada if he resigned his portfolio. This seems to be the situation that is developing in dealing with what my colleague said just a moment ago concerns the day to day life of people all across Canada, our postal services.

The point that I was making—and which I would have concluded within two minutes had the Postmaster General extended me the