

Oral Questions

Mr. Andre: I would invite Hon. Members—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

EQUALITY OF SERVICE

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, this winter thousands of Canadians who live in modern neighbourhoods will go out into blizzards trying to get their mail without having it blown away by the wind and without slipping and breaking their necks. They will not forget Cold Côté.

How could the Government approve of a postal plan that removes the equality of service within a given area, a tradition of the post office for decades?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Hon. Member that the decision to establish two delivery classes, and the responsibility for that decision, lies not with this Government but with the previous Government, which started implementing these procedures in 1974 when it set up the green boxes. It is their responsibility, and now we have to clean up the mess.

UNIFORMITY OF SERVICES

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): This reduction in postal services cannot be tolerated! Don't you think you have a responsibility to Canadians to be fair and to give the same service in the same region, from door to door and not from box to box?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1430)

[*English*]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will answer that by saying that this Government is committed to providing a higher quality of postal service. I think that everyone knows that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: It comes as a real surprise.

Mr. Côté (Langelier): The plan tabled yesterday answers the needs of Canadians to have a better postal service at an affordable cost.

Mr. Speaker: All Hon. Members will know that that is a hard act to follow.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Speaker: It might be appropriate to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Robert Jackson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment for the Province of New Brunswick.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED POSTAL RATE INCREASE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. Canadians need some information to understand what he means by a full opportunity to review the rate increase. Will the Committee be given adequate time to do the review, or will it be limited to the month that Donald Landers talked about? Will the Committee be given all the information that it needs, such as full pricing information, or will it be limited to the document that was tabled yesterday? Will the Committee have sufficient scope, or will it be limited simply to examining the 2 cent increase?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the increase in postal rates is an integral part of the corporate plan that was tabled yesterday. Cabinet has decided to refer consideration of the rate increases to a parliamentary committee, before proceeding with publication, and it did so in the very best spirit of parliamentary reform. So again, we are supporting objectives announced previously.

[*English*]

CONDUCT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has failed to take the opportunity to provide the type of information that would assure Canadians that the review is going to be full and adequate. He leaves us with no other conclusion but that this is going to be an opportunity for back-bench Tories to blow off steam, and a roast for Donald Landers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have not found a question there yet. Perhaps the Hon. Member would put his question.