

Government Orders

everything he possibly could is quite shocking for someone like myself who is familiar with the process.

I would really like Mr. Gold to tell us in a report to the minister just where it is that these two sides are coming from and whether indeed it is as bad at Canada Post as we are hearing.

I have a bit of a bias in this whole process and I will tell the minister why. My brother works for Canada Post as a letter carrier in Winnipeg and I know the minister is aware of that. I have told him. My brother is a letter carrier and he tells me about the internal workings of his day to day job at Canada Post, his day to day activities with the management of Canada Post in Winnipeg. I obviously have a lot of respect for my brother.

One of the things he has said to me is that the relationship between management and the worker is so bad that on most days he wonders why he would even want to continue to work there. He cannot seem to see the end of the tunnel and the improvements that are going to take place that he would like to see between the two sides as far as labour relations are concerned.

I put that on the record because I want people to know that I have talked to people I trust who work for Canada Post to get a sense of whether it is really as bad as they say it is. My sense in discussing this issue with those who are in the know is that it is really bad. If it is that bad then we have an obligation as parliamentarians and the government has an obligation to investigate. During committee I asked the minister if he had undertaken a study to take a look at all the innuendo coming out of Canada Post about the harassment and whether he had indeed instructed his officials to take a good look at that. The answer was that nobody had asked him.

Leadership is simply that. You do not have to be asked. If something is wrong you go and take a look at it and see if you can fix it. I say to the minister again that through the process of this amendment which I am putting forward maybe he could formulate this kind of investigation that would clear the air once and for all of what is going on at Canada Post.

In wrapping up I want to say to the government opposite that this essential service legislation, this back-door process, is not going to resolve the issue. The ability of Canada Post and its employees to function will only be improved through good labour relations. I hope that the

minister or the next government that comes into office realizes that Canada Post has to have some improvements.

I want to thank the Speaker for allowing me to go on. I hope that the minister will understand the fundamental issues that are at hand here.

I want to present the motion. I move:

That clause 15 on page 6 be amended by deleting lines 30 to 32 and substitute the following therefor:

"This Act shall come into force at the time the Governor in Council appoints a commission of inquiry under the Inquiries Act for the purpose of inquiring into labour relations between Canada Post Corporation and its employees."

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost): The Chair will take the motion moved by the hon. member for the Official Opposition under advisement. Resuming debate. The hon. member for Churchill.

[*English*]

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Bill C-40. I think one of the interesting things that should be pointed out is that this is the fortieth piece of legislation that this government has brought forward since the last Throne Speech. It is the fourth time that the government has brought in legislation to order workers back to work. In other words, 10 per cent of the government's legislation to date has been back-to-work legislation.

I think that gives people an idea about the status of labour relations in this country. Even though the vast majority of disputes in this country are settled without strikes there are a certain number of areas where the federal government does have to look at the problems that are faced in the Public Service. Quite often these problems are related to this government's political agenda. In other words, the agenda of privatization, contracting out and the reduction of services has created negative labour relations within this country.

I look at this legislation and have only had it for an hour but I think there are some problems with it. There is an imbalance in the legislation. It says that employees have to go back to work. At the same time it allows the employer to discipline approximately 71 people who were disciplined during the strike, and not let them come back to work. In other words when this legislation passes,