

Post Office Act

is impractical to distribute the newspaper other than by postal delivery. Most dailies rely to a major extent on carrier distribution; mail rates are not a major factor. In other words, the weekly newspapers feel they are being discriminated against, particularly when they service small areas.

• (12:50 p.m.)

I remind the minister that the weekly newspapers perform an important function for the government. This is true of many weekly newspapers, particularly those such as one in my riding of Calgary North, the *Rocky View and Market Examiner*, which is published in the city of Calgary and is distributed to rural areas and small towns. Many of the bulletins which the government wishes to publish are published as a service by these weekly newspapers free of charge to the government. Therefore they are performing a service for the government and some consideration should be given them in that regard.

When one looks at the whole picture one realizes that this is where a committee should have examined the true set of facts. As the hon. member for Winnipeg North said, the deficit in delivering *Reader's Digest* was \$982,388 and for *Time*, \$864,000, but even under the new proposal these two U.S. periodicals will fare the best. Of course the Postmaster General said last evening that one cannot compare *Time* magazine with a daily or weekly newspaper. Nevertheless they are still competing for the advertising dollar in Canada. The deficit on the delivery of *Reader's Digest* will still cost the nation \$800,570. The yearly deficit on *Time* magazine was \$864,362, but under the new proposal it will still be \$721,527.

I think it would be very interesting to have these figures examined by a standing committee. I ask again: What is the minister afraid of, even if there were to be a delay of 30 days in coping with the deficit in his department? We heard this morning how these committees were going to function. It is to be the beginning of a new era. The funny thing about the philosophy of this government is that when it wants to sweep things under the carpet it does not use committees but when it wants to sweep other things under a different kind of carpet and keep them out of the House of Commons so as not to embarrass the government it refers them to a committee. What kind of nonsense is this? The government cannot have it both ways. Either these committees will function properly or they will not

[Mr. Woolliams.]

function at all. According to the methods adopted by the committees, it seems to me that a committee headed by a government chairman and with a government majority will sweep things under the carpet anyway.

Perhaps the following words which appeared in the *Star Weekly* of July 31, 1965, were not far wrong. This is what was written in reference to the Liberal government:

What did the government do? It exempted *Time* and *Reader's Digest* from the very tax that was supposed to curb foreign looters of the Canadian advertising dollar.

Now the minister is doing it once again and it shows in his own figures. I would like to see them analysed and carefully scrutinized by a standing committee. The article went on to say:

But Senator O'Leary left his fellow senators—and the country—a disturbing thought to ponder: By voting for the exemption of *Time* and *Reader's Digest* from the magazine tax, parliament "is voting for the proposition that Washington has a right to interfere in a matter of purely Canadian concern, and voting a probable death sentence on Canada's periodical press, with all that can entail for our future voyage through history".

In other words, there is discrimination because people who are competing for the advertising dollar in Canada are being discriminated against. Although these two periodicals have a Canadian section they are really published in the United States. I have nothing against United States periodicals coming to Canada. I do not have such a prejudice but I want fair play for Canadian daily and weekly newspapers and magazines and periodicals published in Canada. These two United States periodicals are receiving special treatment. It may be a little refreshing to hear talk about how Sifton Press made about \$1 million but even Sifton Press, which over the years may have been liberally inclined, to put it mildly, did not fare as well as did the *Reader's Digest* and *Time* magazine because both these periodicals taken together will be subsidized by the Canadian taxpayer to the tune of \$14 million.

Many sharp words were used with regard to the Postmaster General. I feel most sincerely sorry for him. He is the instrument to pilot this bill through for the government. Hon. members will recall that he was the last to be appointed to the cabinet. I believe the Prime Minister let the cat out of the bag today when he referred to the imperialistic press. I was going to say this anyhow but it only confirmed and corroborated what I was thinking. Some publishers who are very liberally inclined have told me that they have a