

*Government Organization*

Every commission that has studied the question—and I need only refer members to the O'Leary commission of a few years ago—has talked about the importance, if this country is to survive as a viable entity, of maintaining a press and magazine industry of its own. In spite of this, what the minister has done has led to the situation where during the next few years we will see the disappearance of publications in every sphere of life in this country.

I want very briefly to put on the record some of the appeals and complaints that have been made to the minister. I am not speaking of political complaints; certainly, they cannot be called, by any stretch of the imagination, partisan. According to a report that appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* of January 30, 1969 the Canadian church press, which is an association of church periodicals, submitted a plea to the Postmaster General in September in view of the new rates that are applicable to their publications.

According to the report, the distribution costs of the *United Church Observer*, which is the publication of the United Church of Canada, have gone up by 500 per cent under the new rates. Their mailing costs have gone from \$30,000 to \$145,000 per year. Two Anglican diocesan papers have been discontinued. I am sure the same is true in connection with publications of Roman Catholic, Baptist and other religious groups.

Professional journals are also having an extremely difficult time. The minister spoke today in a not very complimentary fashion about the Canadian Medical Association's journal. I am not regarded as a defender of the Canadian Medical Association, but their journal does play a very important role in keeping the medical profession informed on professional and technical subjects. The mailing costs of the journal of the Canadian Medical Association have gone up by 900 per cent. Some of the specialty journals, such as the journal of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and the *Canadian Nurse*, whose mailing costs have gone up by 1,500 per cent, are likely to go out of business.

I suppose that no group has been more persistent in its representations to the minister than the group concerned with periodicals emanating from the co-ops and credit unions, journals and magazines that in the main are directed at the agricultural communities of this country. Rural people are passing through a period of revolutionary change, and they need all the technical assistance they can

[Mr. Orlikow.]

get. They have been accustomed to getting it from agricultural periodicals.

In the past 20 years there has been an alarming decimation of these periodicals. The *Canadian Countryman*, *Farmers Magazine*, *Farmers Advocate*, *Farm and Ranch Review*, *Saskatchewan Farmer* and *Family Herald* have all gone out of business in recent years. It is true that they ceased publication before the minister increased the rates, but the effect of the minister's action can be seen if one looks at the position of publications that are still in business.

The mailing costs of *Country Guide* have gone up by 260 per cent. The costs of the *Canadian Cattleman* have gone up by 300 per cent. These costs are related to postage and mailing. The *Manitoba Co-operator* costs have gone up by 250 per cent. The *Western Producer* costs have gone up by 250 per cent. These, in the main, are publications that are not sold entirely by way of individual subscriptions but are distributed to members of co-ops, the Manitoba Pool Elevator Company and other such organizations. It is not easy for these organizations to increase their rates, and as a result I suggest to the members of this committee many of these publications will have to go out of business. This will very seriously affect the farmers of this country.

What is the position of the ethnic press? I want to speak briefly about the ethnic press because many such newspapers are printed and published in the city of Winnipeg. Members of the ethnic press, the Canadian Ethnic Press Federation, submitted a brief to the Postmaster General, and I should like to put on record a few of the facts that they brought forward for his attention.

**Mr. Haidasz:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I see that I have some support from the hon. member for Parkdale. It is nice to know, Mr. Chairman, that somebody on the other side takes an interest in these matters. I should like to refer to pages 10 and 11 of their submission. The publication *Nove Domov*—meaning "New Homeland"—a Czechoslovak weekly, has 16 copies to the pound. The present per pound rate is 1.5 cents, but the new rate will be 16 x 2 cents per copy or 32 cents per pound. This represents an approximate increase of 2,000 per cent. *Logberg-Heimskringla*, an Icelandic weekly, has 12 copies to the pound. The present rate per pound is 1.5 cents. The increase is from 1.5 cent per pound to 12 x 2 cents per copy which is 24 cents per pound, an increase of