

*Government Orders*

ago, there were nearly 100,000 grievances in Canada Post.

This is our government. This is our government's own postal service. This is the government that passes laws, that dictates the procedures that are acceptable and are not acceptable for workers on job sites. Yet in this corporation, which it owns, it has poisoned the atmosphere so badly that pregnant women down in the Gateway plant in metropolitan Toronto were not given permission to go to the washroom. That was two years ago. Racial discrimination was a practice in postal sorting stations in other parts of the country. Grievances that should have been settled right there on the workshop floor were forced into the grievance procedure. That was not by accident. It was by grand design.

This government is hell-bent on, and I have said it since 1988, privatizing Canada's postal service.

If that means delivering it to the highest bidder and that highest bidder happens to be an American south of the border, as much as I love my American neighbours down south, I do not want them delivering my mail in Dartmouth.

What the government has done here is a little sleight of hand. It has come in and said: "Look, here is what we are going to do here. We are going to sell off 10 per cent of the shares"—whatever the heck that means—"of Canada Post. We are going to let the employees buy into it".

The hon. member opposite said: "We think that if we allow them to take part of the ownership of the corporation, it will motivate them to provide better service. We think that it would give them a sense of entrepreneurial spirit. We think it would deliver a sense of commitment".

The hon. member opposite talked earlier about the awarding of medals and talked about some postal worker down in Atlantic Canada, I think it was in Halifax, who did something that he considered extraordinary. He went beyond the call of duty. If this government were not on a search and destroy mission on the unions of Canada Post, which it has been on since it was elected, it would have recognized that what he was talking about today was not the exception, it was the rule and it still is the rule in most of the postal service in Canada. Those

people do not have horns. They are just like you and I. They are trying to make a decent day's pay for a decent day's labour and they do not want to be harassed on the worksite and they do not want to have grievances filed and they do not want medals from the government.

All they want is a little respect for the job that they do on behalf of each and every Canadian. That is all they want. They do not need shares in a corporation that they already own as Canadians to have a sense of pride and commitment to their work. As a Canadian citizen, each and every one of those employees does own that Crown corporation because it is owned by the Government of Canada.

Let us strip this bill down for what it is. It is nothing short of a scam. It is a waste of time even to be debating the damned thing if it were not so important that we try to uncover the government's true agenda here. The government's true agenda here is not to motivate its employees. Can you imagine? I was almost waiting for elevator music to be played in the background while the hon. member eloquently professed this new-found love for the postal workers in Canada.

This bill is the first step on the slippery slope to privatizing the Canada Post Corporation. That is what it is. One of the members opposite is smiling. He is probably smiling because he knows I am on to them. He is smiling because he is not running again. He knows that what I am saying now is not going to affect him. He has probably already got his pension, he is okay.

What this does is it brings into legislation a process that was begun a few years ago. If you break the union's spirit, if you convince the Canadian public that these people really do not give them good service anyway, and then if you mandate the Crown corporation to increase rates, get into competition in the private sector so that it can improve its profit line, it makes it more attractive when you want to sell the darned thing off.

The government, if it were ever allowed to govern again after the next election, it would bring another bill in and would ask: "What is so different? We already started this thing. We gave 10 per cent to the employees. I do not know why the opposition is complaining and bellyaching".