

*Postal Service*

I fully trust in the minister's and the government's skills to take the bull by the horns and to bring it to reason. My remarks are not directed here to Post Office employees in my area, because they are good public servants, and I am proud to underline their efforts towards a better Canada by going their humble way rain or shine.

However, there are things which I find difficult to understand sometimes, and I want to deal particularly with the city of Edmundston, where I settled two years ago. This is not some sort of destructive criticism of the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans). I simply want reasonable explanations, and I feel that between reasonable people, it is possible to come to terms.

Some time ago, I asked the Postmaster General to consider opening two sub-offices in the city of Edmundston. After an inquiry by his officials, the minister granted my request, for which I thank him.

However, as a consequence, it was decided to close on Saturdays the main post office located in Edmundston-Center, and the sub-offices, located in Edmundston West and in Edmundston East remain open.

Now, on Saturday, the post office in Edmundston Centre being closed, people are told to purchase their stamps at the post offices in Edmundston East or Edmundston West. Of course, people do not accept that.

**Mr. Caouette:** It is not a good system.

**Mr. Corbin:** As reasonable people, we should be able to come to an understanding.

There must be a reason for that. If the Minister of Communications would give us an explanation, I would accept it, and I can give you my word that my fellow-citizens would accept it also.

Maybe I am a little pessimistic, but sometimes I have the impression that the Minister of Communications is being brainwashed by some officials. I cannot prove it, but I have serious doubts about this.

**Mr. Caouette:** How true!

**Mr. Corbin:** I have serious doubts, and this not only as far as the Post Office Department is concerned but in the case of other federal government departments.

Once more, I am glad to emphasize the fact that the government is looking into those matters and that it is making an inquiry regarding all the complaints received in this respect.

**Mr. Caouette:** The same situation prevails in the constituency of Bonaventure.

**Mr. Corbin:** It is quite possible but, for the information of Mr. Caouette, I do not live there.

As a proof that the Liberal government has turned its attention to the postal service in Canada and particularly in my area, Mr. Speaker, I submit that since 1964, more than 14 regional rural post offices have been established to serve a total population of 55,000.

As I said a moment ago, this proves two things. Firstly, that the Liberal government has met the Canadian citizens' needs; secondly, that it has made up for the harmful effects caused by the previous government's inaction. And for that, I wish to congratulate it warmly.

The postal service has been greatly improved and as far as my own riding is concerned, there remains only a little polishing up to do over the service, as a whole.

We are going through difficult times, from an economic point of view. My fellow-citizens are ready to tighten their belts—

**An hon. Member:** It is not true.

**Mr. Corbin:** It is quite true. They have done it in the past and they are ready to do it again in the future.

Mr. Speaker, through you, I wish to assure the Minister of Communications of my constituents' admiration and I want to tell him that I shall vote against the motion under consideration.

● (9:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have a few moments to speak on this non-confidence motion concerning the government's mismanagement of the postal service. I congratulate the two members of the Liberal party the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) and the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) for rising and trying to defend their minister. It is the first time since I became a member of this house that so few speakers have risen to protect a minister of any department.

I wish to congratulate especially the hon. member for Ontario who is also a member of the Public Accounts Committee which it is my honour to chair. He is quite right when he says we did report to the house that there should be ways and means found to cover the loss on second class mail. However at no