

separate briefing session for the press which the minister specifically said I could not attend. That is the transparency of the minister responsible—or should I say irresponsible—across the way.

We know that presently Canada Post has boxes at the domed stadium in Toronto. The president, Mr. Landers, admitted to me that it buys memberships in fancy golf courses for some of the upper echelon people at Canada Post. He admitted that to me in committee.

An hon. member: That is for motivation.

Mr. Boudria: Very motivating, but Canadians do not want that.

What Canadians want is for Canada Post, and this may sound original, to deliver the mail. I know that is a far-reaching concept. It is absolutely wild for Canada Post to want to deliver the mail. As far as I remember, that is what it is there for. That is what it is supposed to do.

Canada Post is already trying to look like a private corporation. Why is it ashamed of being a corporation of the Government of Canada? I do not know. I have often argued this point with it. Maybe the government across the way does not want Canada Post to look like a corporation of the Government of Canada.

The act is quite clear. Canada Post must remain a corporation of the Government of Canada and it must have a corporate logo that identifies it that way. What did this government do a couple of years ago? It gave a new logo to Canada Post. It removed the coat of arms. It removed the flag of Canada and replaced it with a very Canadian object to symbolize this great country, a pigeon wing. Yes, that makes all of us feel patriotic, a pigeon wing.

• (1140)

The Canada Post Corporation Act describes its mandate. Listen to this. Portion (e) refers to what the corporation is supposed to be structured like. It talks of Canada Post and identified:

the need to maintain a corporate identity program approved by the Governor in Council—

That is the first criteria. Cabinet must approve its corporate identity. It continues:

—that reflects the role of the corporation as an institution of the Government of Canada.

Government Orders

It used to say Poste Canada Post. It was the pride of Canada, with a coat of arms and the flag of Canada on the post office. That is what it was like and that is what the act says it is supposed to look like.

What does it look like now? First of all, no Order in Council has ever been issued to change the corporate logo. It changed it anyway. It removed the word “Canada”. It removed the Canadian flag and now it says “Mail/Poste” with a pigeon wing. It is closing down rural post offices across Canada.

That is not what it is supposed to look like.

[*Translation*]

Canadians all over the country are angry. I give the example of the residents of Saint-Clément de Rivière-du-Loup. I went to Saint-Clément de Rivière-du-Loup. I see the member for the neighbouring riding here, and there too post offices are being closed. She knows that the people of Saint-Clément just wanted to keep their post office. Canada Post owns the building. I went there and even had a very good meal. I must say that it was very good and I congratulate the people who prepared lunch the day I went there. I gave a press conference on location.

The people want to keep their post office. They just want Canada Post to hire someone else. What is wrong with that? It is not a dying community. It is not a ghost town with no more customers and another post office a mile away. There are no post offices nearby, but there was one in Saint-Clément de Rivière-du-Loup. Why not keep that post office open? No, Canada Post, under its corporate plan approved by the government opposite, closed the post office in Saint-Clément de Rivière-du-Loup, like others elsewhere in Canada, including my riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

[*English*]

We are debating the wrong bill this morning. The bill we are debating is in itself wrong because it does not do what the government says it should be doing. That too is wrong.

I ask the government to withdraw this bill and let us get on with things that make more sense. If the government wants to talk about Canada Post this morning I have a good idea. Let us talk about Bill C-217. Let us create that structure to supervise the post office rather than letting it run around like a pigeon with its head cut off.