

76 have worked between five and ten years. That represents 162 men with ten years of service.

[Translation]

No, no goons are involved in this case and I agree with you on that.

[English]

Thirty of these employees have worked for four years, 48 for three years, 80 for two years and—this is the heart of the matter—135 have come in within the last year.

An hon. Member: Troublemakers.

Mr. Kierans: I do not say that they are troublemakers, but I do say that the people who came in within the last year knew that it was a temporary arrangement. They knew the conditions which had been prevailing. I do not think that I have a particular responsibility to them, any more than I have a responsibility to make sure that the Teamsters are thrown out of one contract and the CSN pushed in.

We will take account of these people as best we can, but first of all they must look after themselves. They have to risk—and the way things are going, it is quite a risk—listing their names with Canada Manpower. They have to make application. If they do not register with Canada Manpower, there is nothing that I or anyone else can do. If they do register, they will be given every consideration. However, if they do not and the union decides to continue violence because the government is weak-kneed and cowardly and eventually they will win the day, we can help no one in the present group.

One thing we will do is go on delivering the mail, and we will take all the necessary steps to deliver it. If they do not register with Manpower, we will begin by employing 350 new drivers and will give them the security that the occasion will require. The issue is in the hands of the union, and their representatives are here tonight. I hope all of them understand the situation, and that through whatever contacts they have they will make it clear that this government will not yield to violence, to intimidation—that the government will not yield, period.

If the union wishes to discuss job security, the officers of the Post Office and Canada Manpower are waiting. But they have already been waiting for five months since the announcement of September 26. What we heard from them then was not that they were interested in job security, but rather that

they were interested in bringing the government of Canada and its Post Office Department to their knees. We are not on our knees now, and we will not be.

Montreal Postal Strike

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I listened with rapt attention and great interest to the statement of the minister, which lasted longer than the rules for this type of debate allow. However, we were delighted to grant unanimous consent that he prolong his remarks and we on this side of the House will expect, if necessary, that similar reciprocation will come our way.

The minister spoke with great vigour and tremendous volume. He reminded me of one of my old elocution teachers who used to say that when you find your opponents roaring, you know that their argument is very, very weak. The minister used words like "bludgeon", "blackmail" and other brave words in talking about certain unions in Montreal and their iniquity. Since they were also asleep for five months, their iniquity must have been compounded during the few months that they were awake.

I used to read the telegrams and statements that union leaders addressed to or made about this present minister and often they came from the workers in his department. They made the most outlandish—as I then thought—denigrating remarks which I thought were excessive and extreme, and to which I was totally unsympathetic. After listening this evening to the outpourings of this minister, I can quite understand how the spokesmen for the unions feel. I can quite understand why he has been such a total disaster in the matter of dealing with the workers of his own department.

The matter we are discussing tonight on an urgent basis is not one that concerns only the people of the great city of Montreal. My colleague from Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) has discussed brilliantly and cogently the problems facing that great city. This is a matter that greatly concerns the whole country since the mail of many Canadians is processed in the metropolis of Montreal.

On the other hand, as a Canadian who is not from Montreal I want to say that I have no desire to see the people of that great city deprived of their essential services. The Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans), who spoke with such volume and apparent conviction as well as partisanship, is himself unique among the ministers of this unique government. In his short term of office he has emerged as an