

Earlier this year, the Government passed a law to help farmers experiencing financial difficulty. I am of course referring to the Farm Debt Review Act. This was the first element of a series of measures intended to improve federal bankruptcy legislation.

Hopefully, the Government will be able to introduce the next, and second element soon. That would be the package of amendments I referred to earlier. Following that, it is intended that additional outstanding issues, including the status of unpaid suppliers, be addressed as expeditiously as possible.

[Translation]

CANADA POST—PLAN TO PROMOTE POSTAL RATE INCREASES—  
UTILIZATION OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES—  
REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** This evening, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to a question I directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post last October 28. We had just learned that Canada Post had prepared a communication plan, a rather thick document, in an attempt to manipulate Canadians and sell them on the forthcoming postal rate increase.

A few days later, Mr. Speaker, we learned through the postal workers' own paper—with a circulation of 60,000 copies—that a rather expensive advertising campaign had been launched to explain the new home delivery system through community boxes.

Indeed here is the question I put to the Minister: How can he allow Canada Post to devote so much energy and so many human and material resources to sell Canadians on a postal rate increase they do not want and a delivery system which they never did and never will accept? If they were to accept this, if the community box delivery system were to become the Government's permanent policy as of tomorrow, we would be creating second class citizens. In other words, people go to the trouble of investing and buying new houses which spur the construction industry and create jobs, yet these people will be penalized, Mr. Speaker, because they will not be getting home delivery like all other Canadians do. I think that it is a social injustice that this Government is creating.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to Recommendation No. 8 of the Marchment Report which stated, and I quote:

Communities in urban areas which do not enjoy daily door-to-door delivery be consulted with a view to offering the choice between alternate day letter carrier service or daily mail service through the use of group, community or post office boxes.

There was no proper consultation, Mr. Speaker. Also, the same report had recommended that another five years be granted to Canada Post to get rid of its deficit. Here is what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced on February 26, 1986, and I should like to quote from page 8 of his Budget's speech:

The Marchment Committee has recommended another five years to reach the break-even point. This is not acceptable.

Following discussions with the President of Canada Post, the Government has requested a new operating plan to improve productivity at Canada Post so that the Corporation will reduce its operating deficit to zero by the end of fiscal 1987-

*Adjournment Debate*

88. The Government is confident that by taking further steps to improve productivity and efficiency, Canada Post and its workers can meet the objective of self-sufficiency while improving reliability of service to the people of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has obviously decided to go completely against these two recommendations of the Marchment Commission, and we know that Canada Post wants now to increase by 2 cents the cost of stamps for first class mail.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to use the short time remaining at my disposal to mention also that this is the second increase in the cost of stamps since the Progressive Conservative Party came to power. As a matter of fact, when the former Minister responsible for Canada Post announced on June 20, 1985, that the Government was giving the green light to Post Canada to increase by 2 cents the cost of stamps, he said, and I quote in English, Mr. Speaker:

• (1810)

[English]

Mr. Beatty said that, before future rate increases are considered by the federal government, Cabinet will expect Canada Post to implement new measures to improve productivity.

Canadians do not believe that any new measures have been implemented to improve productivity. The only thing which was implemented was community boxes. People in new homes in Canada are not receiving home delivery. Therefore, the Government and the Canada Post Corporation is discriminating against Canadians and creating second-class citizens. Perhaps tomorrow Canadians will learn the truth. All Canadians await the so-called postal business plan which the Government is supposed to announce to indicate how we will receive our mail in the future. We hope that tomorrow we will still have only one class of citizen in Canada.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in my judgment in the past two years Canada Post has shown a remarkable capacity and ability to do more with less. As the Hon. Member indicated, tomorrow at three o'clock in this Chamber the Minister will be tabling the corporate plan for Canada Post. We do not have to wait for the future to identify the progress already being made and that which has been made in the last couple of years.

Over the past two years the volume of mail handled by the Corporation has increased by almost 7 per cent. At the same time the number of employees has been reduced by 2,000, a saving of some \$60 million. Not only has the volume of mail increased, but Canada Post is serving more and more homes and businesses. Service has been extended to over 200,000 new homes and businesses since September of 1984.

The Minister will be reporting on strides being made in improving the reliability of service. These have been made by the introduction of new and consistent standards, systems and procedures into the Corporation's operations in order to keep the mail flowing smoothly and to handle any potential problems as they start to develop.