

Supply—Post Office

ticular of the special rates granted to agricultural publications. I do not know a man or a publisher turning out farm publications today that is not in the million dollar class. Is there any reason why an agricultural publication should be drawn across the country in mail service at a cheaper rate than a daily newspaper of over 10,000 circulation? I do not know of any reason why a daily newspaper with less than 10,000 circulation should get a better postal rate. After all, when the large daily newspaper goes into the smaller centres, the smaller paper can undercut the big fellow simply because of the government subsidy he gets on the postage rate.

There is another point, and I think if the public knew about it they would make some mention of it. I refer to the fact that the small weekly publications get certain postal privileges. I have a friend here on the Liberal side who is the publisher of a small weekly publication. These publications receive free mailing privileges within 40 miles of the point of publication. I ask you, why should the publisher of a small weekly publication get free mailing privileges within 40 miles of the point of publication? The hon. member for Danforth is 100 per cent right when he says there are political considerations in the matter. Why should the local publisher get free mailing privileges? The local tobacconist does not, the local pharmacist does not, and the local variety store does not. They all have farmers asking for things to be sent by mail, but they have to pay for the privilege of mailing these things to the farmer. However, if a farmer calls up the newspaper office and asks that the newspaper be sent, the newspaper goes free. I do not believe that publishers, in claiming freedom of the press, wanted it to go so far as free mailing service for themselves.

I think it is safe to assume that with a small paper with a circulation of 2,500, there will be about 800 moving through the mail and 1,700 will be picked up at the shop or they will have carrier boys in their centre of publication who will deliver it to the homes. You do not need to feel that if postage rates are applied to local weekly or semi-weekly newspapers, the publisher is going to have to pay postage on every paper printed. He will only pay on that percentage moving through the mails. If there is a mail charge, you can rest assured the publisher will keep the mailing list down as low as possible and make arrangements otherwise for getting the paper into the hands of the subscriber.

While I am on my feet, I should like to point out another matter which is of some concern. This first came to my attention 10 or 12 years ago. I refer to a regulation of the Post Office Department that bills for invoices, and all firms issue such bills and invoices at the end of the month or 30 days after a contract is entered into, have to go in sealed envelopes. This is done, I am told, so that noseyparkers will not be able to tell how much money is owing by some person to another. I heard years ago for the first time that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada gets a special rate for postal service. I could not believe this to be true. I asked the Post Office Department and I was advised that the Bell Telephone Company is not treated like anybody else. They do not render invoices. They have a contract with you to instal a phone in your home and you agree to pay them a certain stipulated amount per month. This is considerably different from the man who is selling you groceries. You pay his account once a month or once a week and his bill varies each time. The telephone contract is for the same figure month after month. This makes it entirely different from the monthly invoice from the grocer or the optician or any other small businessman who may bill you for \$18 one month and \$12 the next.

However, as I say, there is a special postal regulation which covers the Bell Telephone Company. It does not mention the Bell Telephone by name,—no, God forbid. I thought possibly some arrangement had been made to clear up that anomaly over the years. In the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines I indicated that the Bell Telephone Company had been able to undercut the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National by 25 per cent in bidding for the C.B.C. radio program contract. I read in this House of Commons a letter last December written by Messrs. Crump and Donald Gordon, pointing out the Bell Telephone Company enjoyed certain concessions that made it possible for them to undercut other people in the commercial world. I asked hon. Mr. Balcer, to whom the letter was addressed, if this was fair treatment. I should like to read you, in conclusion, an article that appeared a week ago today, Friday, July 10, in the *Toronto Daily Star*, written by Ron Haggart. It is a short item. I bought this newspaper in the cafeteria about 4.30. Let me read the article to you:

Many years ago, the Bell Telephone Company got a ruling from the post office that its bills can, under some circumstances be considered