

INCREASE IN COST OF MAILING CATALOGUES

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post, but in his absence I hope the Parliamentary Secretary can answer my question. Last year in Malpeque, a small business operator in the garden seed business could send his catalogues to his customers as third class mail at a cost of fourteen and a half cents per catalogue. This year the cost is 64 cents per catalogue. The result is a whopping increase in cost of over 400 per cent. Could the Parliamentary Secretary explain how the Government justifies this increase in light of its six and five guidelines?

Miss MacDonald: What guidelines?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member is undoubtedly aware, the Post Office has also taken steps to reduce its rates in some cases, where significant economy can be achieved by working with small business operators. As far as his particular question is concerned, I will again take notice and bring it to the attention of the independent Crown corporation, that is, the Canada Post Corporation.

Mr. Gass: Madam Speaker, it might be a sleazy way of breaching the six and five guidelines.

IMPACT ON BUSINESSMAN

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, the businessman in question already printed his costs in his catalogue before he sent them out. What does the Parliamentary Secretary propose that I should advise the businessman on how he is to recover his \$65,000 extra in mailing costs when he does not have an accordion-type pricing policy?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am sure that what the Hon. Member could do would be to ask this small business operator—

An Hon. Member: To get an accordion.

Mr. Berger: —to get in touch with the officials of the Canada Post Corporation. I am sure that they would be willing to work with him to find out—

Mr. Clark: He could call Alastair Gillespie.

Mr. Berger: —ways to deliver his mail efficiently and at a reasonable cost.

Oral Questions

LOTTERIES

PASSAGE OF SPORTS POOL LEGISLATION

Mr. Robert Bockstael (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of State for International Trade.

Some Hon. Members: Aha!

Mr. Bockstael: About two weeks ago we read that the 1988 Winter Olympic Games were given a \$5 million advance loan from the Government until the sports lottery could be set up. We did hear representation in the western caucus from the Mayor of Calgary who inquired if the sports pool legislation could be passed. I want to know whether the sports pool legislation could be passed very shortly because, while the Games are in 1988, preparations must be completed by 1986, and the money is badly needed. We are wondering if the Government is prepared to pass legislation in a one-day period.

Mr. Paproski: Why don't you ask Pinard?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, with regard to the sports pool legislation, it has received second reading and has had lengthy and careful examination in committee. It is now at the report stage. What is normal concerning legislation of this type is for agreement to be achieved and for it to be completed in one day because of the limited amount of House time available.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan: It is my information that, while the New Democratic Party is prepared to go along with that arrangement if the Conservatives do, the—

Mr. Nielsen: Be careful!

Mr. Regan: —Official Opposition is not prepared to allow the legislation to pass in one day.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Regan: It is not prepared to say how much time it would require for the legislation to pass. The result is that Calgary is very hard pressed in relation to money required to finance the beginning of the facilities for the 1988 Olympics.

An Hon. Member: That's Alberta, Joe!

Mr. Regan: It is therefore very doubtful that the legislation can be passed in this session unless the Conservative Opposition changes its position and agrees to a reasonable time limit to complete this simple Bill.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

USE OF LOTTERY FUNDS

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): My question is directed to the same Minister, Madam Speaker. I would like to