

Government Orders

The management of the post office in the last few years, along with the various postal workers' unions, has done a pretty good job. There is no question in any corporation there are differences and there are problems. I know in my own community my good friend John Demarco continues to remind me—and I continue to try to fight for it—of the fact that the Government of Canada really does not show a lot of good faith in the way it handles the superannuation fund of postal workers. It is using that fund and not giving full value to the people who are paying into it.

Nothing is perfect, I grant that, but I do not support the concept of privatizing something that contributes so much to federal presence. I will tell the House what I am concerned about. If we continue to put this institution into an almost totally privatized state, what would bother me is that those people in the major markets are going to get a special class of treatment, much better and far superior treatment, than those people who are in disadvantaged regions of the country, disadvantaged by population and other support services. I am afraid we are going to have a two-tiered and maybe even a three-tiered postal service in this country when we are all supposed to be equal.

The postal service was supposed to be a common service to the public across Canada. I think this kind of tampering works away at weakening that. I do not see anything productive in this bill other than the general idea. There is nothing specific in it that is good.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on some of the points made by the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood.

I appreciated his openness and honesty in sharing with us his corporate background as vice-president of public relations for Magna. He can compare whether the government really and truly believes in equity participation, or is this a sham too, as he called it, another dismantling exercise? I suspect it is the latter.

I also appreciated the fact he said that service should be provided equally and efficiently regardless of where we are in Canada. I recall my days, born in Fosston, Saskatchewan, which they used to call a one-horse town. I hope they are getting the same kind of mail service there in Fosston, Saskatchewan as I am getting in Parkdale—High Park today, although I doubt whether that is the case.

What bothered my constituents a lot was when Canada Post dropped the word "Canada" from its logo. Now it is just Mail-Poste. Perhaps the member could draw on his corporate experience because the government will not tell us why it dropped the word "Canada". Could he maybe share with us why he thinks the government dropped "Canada" from the logo? Surely would that not be a selling point? Let us face it. The government will privatize Canada Post as it has privatized a lot of other corporations. However, what would lead it to drop the word "Canada"?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will give the member 30 seconds to answer that.

• (1700)

Mr. Mills: The alienation existing in this country quite often happens when people do not realize the services the national government brings to them.

We put the "Canada" word mark on all of those post offices right across the country in 1980. This was done to show every region of the country that the Government of Canada exists in every community. It is there for everyone, we hope everyone is proud of it, and we are proud to be there. It is showing the flag.

Mr. Speaker, give me 10 more seconds. This is very important.

We did it in 1980 because we were in the process of a referendum. We made sure. Now we are heading back into another possible referendum and the government should rethink it, especially in the province of Quebec.

* * *

[*Translation*]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed the following bill, which it submits to the House for approval:

[*English*]

Bill S-9, an act to incorporate the Northwest Canada Conference of the Evangelical Church.

Pursuant to Standing Order 135(2) the bill is deemed to have been read the first time and ordered for a second reading at the next sitting of the House.