

which is not even going too fast. This is the kind of service that we would like to see improved.

I have written to the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) about this matter but have not had a reply from him. I am not really interested in why the paper arrives late at these places, but I want something done about it. As I understand it, the mail formerly sorted at Rosetown has to go to Saskatoon and then come back to these communities. It seems to me that if this is an improved service, a new venture by the Post Office, they should look again at the speed with which the mail moves. When it formerly had to go to Rosetown and come back by another line, it moved fairly rapidly—but that is not the case now.

It has been suggested to me that these little newspapers do not arrive in Calgary until the following Monday or Tuesday. This is much too slow, I receive it in the House of Commons on Monday or Tuesday, and if the Post Office can deliver it here they should be able to deliver it to Calgary which is much closer. I look to the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton to see that the mail is delivered in a better fashion. I am no technician with regard to Post Office facilities but I have great respect for most individual postmen. If we are going to introduce changes such as I have indicated, I think they should give the same service as was given previously, and not less. This, I contend, is what we are trying to achieve.

**Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with much interest this afternoon to the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson), the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) and the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) when they spoke of complaints concerning the postal service.

I want to take a few minutes to say that the people I represent are extremely concerned that there be an efficient postal service and that it be continuous and reliable. One of the genuine threats that concerns me and the people of the Ottawa valley is that of labour disputes which, under certain circumstances, might lead to strike action by those responsible for mail delivery. This, of course, places an undue hardship upon people who conduct their business through the mail and those who receive old age pension or family allowance cheques. This concern of many people was mentioned by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris at the end of his speech and I think it is very valid. All of us must encourage the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) and others to negotiate in good faith with Post Office employees and attempt to head off any breakdown in the mail service.

I think it is worthy of comment that the mail service has been expanded and improved in some areas in recent years. In two towns that I represent, Arnprior and Perth, house to house delivery has been inaugurated in recent months, with the general approval and appreciation of residents.

From time to time when I look at the economic balance sheet of the Canada Post Office and notice the deficits and the steps taken in recent years to bring some semblance of balance to the department, I wonder if there might not be some advantage in turning mail delivery over to private enterprise. It is true we have a parallel

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with the bell Telephone Company which has almost a monopoly in their type of communication. It is also true that many people feel that Bell has increased rates exorbitantly. But many of us wonder if it would not be worth while to consider turning postal deliveries over to such an enterprise and setting up a system that could be administered efficiently.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hour set aside for private members' business has expired. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

[Translation]

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### FARM CREDIT ACT

#### AMENDMENTS RESPECTING LOANS AND POWERS AND CAPITAL OF CORPORATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Olson that bill C-5, to amend the Farm Credit Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the amendment of Mr. Korchinski (p. 1872) and the subamendment of Mr. Knight (p. 1903).

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Just before recess, Mr. Speaker, I indicated how all these conflicts of jurisdiction between the federal and the provincial governments may prove a great obstacle to the development of Canadian agriculture. When we talk about these problems, we should not minimize them, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Lessard) did.

For indeed one can read, in some farm papers in the province of Quebec for instance, many such headings as the following: "The Catholic Farmers' Union and the feed problem: Ottawa recognizes the unfairness of the situation but fails to correct it." This appeared in the February 9 issue of *Terre de Chez nous*, page 4.

In the same issue of this newspaper one can read and I quote:

The assistance measures to producers announced by Prime Minister Trudeau have been received rather coolly by the people first concerned in Quebec.

On May 3, 1972, *Le Devoir* printed an article entitled "Quebec agriculture suffers mainly from conflicts between Ottawa and Quebec". This newspaper was referring to the comprehensive farm development plan introduced by the Quebec government.

It is obvious that there is a conflict. Let us not ignore it but rather let us find the true solution.

As I said earlier in my remarks, the farm organizations are at least in a position to supply parts of the solution