

*Government Orders*

Either there is no bargaining in good faith at that bargaining table or the process that Canada Post is entering into is so bad that the workers of Canada Post fear for their jobs and therefore have no choice but to fight this every step of the way. They are quite prepared to do something that may be a little radical in nature.

My sense of it is that even if this back-to-work legislation or this essential service legislation as I mentioned before is put in place, some of the locals of CUPW will not be very pleased with the process and we will still get disruptions.

It will happen the same way it happened for PSAC. The Minister of Labour and the President of Treasury Board legislated PSAC back to work. Did that help the whole process? No, simply because they are now working to rule. They are telling us as Canadians that they are not going to put that little extra into it. They are not going to go that extra mile. In essence, the government opposite has only delayed the inevitable again, that somewhere down the line some other government is going to have to deal with the issue.

If there is one message this government should have learned by now, it seems to me it is that this country and the people in it are looking for some kind of leadership. They do not want the government or politicians to continue to delay making decisions. Making a decision of this nature is a non-decision because it has not rectified the problems of Canada Post. The arbitrator is not going to go in there and clean up the collective bargaining process that started with over 360 issues. It is not going to happen. The arbitrator is going to go in there and give them a piecemeal settlement: they are going to get some wages; they are going to get some sort of process, hopefully, for the grievance procedure which is a large stumbling block, as the minister is aware. He may deal with two or three of those issues and then he will say: "That will do until you get back to the table in 1993 to deal with this issue again". They will be back at the same process they are in right now, that is that there is a complete disagreement in philosophy and ideology of what Canada Post is meant to be and do.

The question has to be put to the government: "What do you want Canada Post to be?" If it is suggesting that it should be privatized, it should come out and say that it is going to privatize Canada Post. Everyone watching this process knows darned well that the whole process is

looking toward privatization more and more every day. It wants to make this a money making proposition in order to sell it off to its friends. Nobody is going to buy Canada Post if it does not make any money. What it will do is get rid of the weak links. It will get rid of the northwestern Ontario problem. They do not make any money for Canada Post there. It will leave that for the government.

Therefore, if Canada Post is privatized, what will be left will be the non-profitable areas and we as taxpayers will then have to pay for them. The government's friends will take the profitable side, run with it and make all kinds of money as they did with some of the other privatization schemes this government has come up with.

I am suggesting that is the whole issue at hand here. I have said to Canada Post and CUPW and I say to CUPW now: "Hang in there as long as you can until we can get rid of this government so we can put the mandate back to where it was supposed to be". That mandate was to give the kind of service Canadians have always expected.

• (1300)

I simply want to say that wages are not the major issue in this whole dispute. It seems to me we always hear the media or a particular individual on television say that the issue of wages is the stumbling block. Well, it is not. The real issue is whether we are going to allow Canada Post to change the whole structure of our postal service in this country.

I am wondering really what the hidden mandate is that this government has given Mr. Lander and friends when we hear Mr. Dunstan say the kind of things he said on television in the last few months. It is shameful to have people come out and say the things they have said when we know, as Canadians, that this particular service has always been one we have been proud of.

I want to say to the mediator, Mr. Gold, that as a labour unionist and a person who has been involved in the negotiating process, I thank him very much. I would really like Mr. Gold to do us all a favour and tell us exactly what is going on at the negotiating table. I think it is high time that people realized this whole process has been nothing but a charade. Once Mr. Gold realized it, he had no choice but to step down. The gentleman we are talking about has a lot of credibility in the labour movement. For him to continue to say on the one hand he thought both sides were close and on the other hand turn around unexpectedly and resign saying he had done