

Supply—Post Office

I would ask the Postmaster General to give this matter serious consideration.

For some time I have suggested the possibility that patrons in smaller centres be given more consideration with regard to house to house delivery. Many of these people feel they are paying the same rate of postage as people in the cities. I understand the Post Office Department has certain minimum requirements that have to be met before this service is established. Perhaps these requirements are too high. I hope this problem can be reviewed.

In 1958, one of our area superintendents visited my office in Elmira for the purpose of checking the facilities and in his report to the department recommended that a new office be built by 1960. This was followed up by myself when I became a member of parliament in 1958, with the government of that time, and a new building was approved and will be erected some time in 1964. The present government has seen the necessity for such a building. A site has been chosen, architectural plans have commenced, and tenders may be asked some time in the month of July. The co-operation and interest of the government is deeply appreciated.

May I bring to the attention of the Postmaster General that rates on different types of mail is important to Mr. John Public, especially to some of the larger industrial firms and corporations. Some complaints have reached my desk from such firms who feel the registration fees and special delivery fees are too high. I realize that changes are essential at times in order to avoid deficits in this department.

I am pleased to see the Postmaster General taking steps to take politics out of this department. We know this was very prevalent during the former minister's term of office and could have ruined one of the finest departments in our government.

In order to keep in contact with his huge staff, may I suggest that the Postmaster General visit as many offices as possible. The personal touch is invaluable and is deeply appreciated by all postal employees. I know that in my own riding of Waterloo North, postmasters and staff are doing an outstanding job and naturally are pleased to meet the Postmaster General and other high officials. Such visits create greater unity and uphold all the fine traditions of the service. May I add here a word of praise for the postmaster and staff of the centre and east blocks. They

are extremely courteous and do a wonderful job handling our mail.

Mr. Speaker, in closing my remarks, may I remind the Postmaster General that during his visit to the opening of Waterloo post office, the serious parking situation for patrons of this post office was brought to his attention by his worship Mayor Bauer. He pointed out that the intersection of King street and Laurel street is a very congested one with upwards of 14,000 cars per day using King street, in addition to several thousand on Laurel street. A mailing box is erected in the north elevation of the post office a few feet from the intersection of King and Laurel streets. Many people stop their automobiles in the street adjacent to this mailing box, causing traffic to come to a halt in both directions.

Mr. Bauer feels that the obvious answer to this problem would be to pave the sandholes at the rear of the building and instal a suitable mail box along with a properly marked traffic lane on the parking lot, so that patrons arriving at the post office in cars can drop their mail at this more suitable location. I hope, sir, that this matter will receive immediate attention.

Mr. Herridge: I first wish to congratulate the minister on his appointment as the administrator of this socialist enterprise—and most successful socialist enterprise. I am sure many of us appreciated his excellent analysis of the financial position of the department and his explanation of certain costs, charges and so on. So far as I was concerned it was one of the most clearcut explanations of the administration of the department and the problems facing it that I have heard since I became a member of the house. We all know the minister has a good reputation as an administrator, and it is no surprise because he has the three qualities needed. He is factual, fair and firm.

I want to thank the minister for his courtesy with respect to any matters I brought to his attention and for his promptness in dealing with them. He referred to one little slip up in administration of postal regulations at Trail, and I must say how pleased I was with the prompt attention he paid to this question and his getting to the bottom of it. Sometimes these things occur. One makes mistakes in life. Even the hon. member for Kootenay West has made an occasional mistake in life, and possibly this was worth the incident, to make sure the law and the regulations will be obeyed in future.