

the *Charlottetown Guardian*. The latter editorialized as follows:

More money for less service. That seems to be the motto of the federal government. And nowhere does it show more clearly than in the postal department.

For example over the Christmas holidays there is to be no mail delivery Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and Sunday. (These are not working days for most people, of course, but what excuse is there for no mail delivery on the Monday after Christmas? Tying up the mails for four days in a row. Unheard of. Incredible—

Despite what the still incumbent Postmaster General may say, disruption of mail service does not improve the transmission of mail. The cessation of delivery on Saturday for urban Canadians has proved to be, as some of us predicted, a fiasco. The Davey Committee on Mass Media after a thorough study of the matter recommended as follows:

What we do urge to assist these (daily) newspapers and almost all weekly newspapers is the earliest possible resumption of Saturday mail deliveries. The Lost Weekend has hit some newspapers almost as hard as the rate increases.

On occasions in months past when I deplored the advent and continuation of the five-day delivery, attempts were made to imply an advocacy of the six-day week. Let us not confuse the issue. Postal workers are in the main, and have been for a long time, working a five-day week. We want that for them. We want good working conditions for our postal workers. I have always been very much aware of their problems and sympathetic to their needs. But the minister represents more than the employer side of the table. He must also represent the ultimate concern of both employees and employer—the public. It is time the public interest was consulted and considered.

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Let the minister begin to repair the damage in the department and restore the confidence of the public by putting the interest of all the people of Canada first. I invite him to begin by redressing the imbalance revealed in this glaring example of insensitivity to the needs of the Canadian people and a disregard for their right to expect service from the Post Office Department.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Post Office has asked me to give his answer to a question which the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) put to him on November 26 last, and restated on December 8.

As I know the hon. member for Hillsborough quite well, I am sure, since he has always shown much sympathy for the workers, especially the Post Office employees, that he would not push his argument to the point of taking them away from family gatherings during the holiday season, especially at Christmas time, when he himself will be snug and warm at home, spoiled by his family, in a magnificent corner of the beautiful province of Prince Edward Island. The Canadian people do not ask as much from their Post Office employees.

However, I am told by the minister that even if home delivery is not carried out on December 25, 26, 27 and 28, the Post Office Department will provide wicket service where need be, according to local requirements.

[*English*]

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.18 p.m.