

*Post Office Act*

of Barrie and Miller, in the country of Frontenac, that rural route No. 2 to Cloyne, for example, which is now a route with a three day a week frequency be increased to a daily mail service. I told reeve Tom Neale that I would bring this matter up in the house. This is an important rural route serving many tourists in the summer and the settlers, lumbermen and tourist lodges in the winter. It should have a daily mail service the year round. If the minister put into effect his five day week program, the best we can get for these people will of course be the five day delivery. I ask for his assistance in this matter, and I am sure that it will be forthcoming. We can improve the service there, although if this measure goes through, we will not get daily service.

There is another matter against which I want to protest. It concerns the treatment of the rural mail contractors. They should be given every cent coming to them under their contracts and should not be docked at all for anything resulting from the late lamented postal strike. In the review of their contracts, as mentioned in the resolution, the existing tenders and contracts should run as they are for the remainder of the lives of these contracts. Any changes made will only cost the government more money, and moreover the government has no business interfering with contracts made in good faith and signed with reliable people. The point I wish to make is that even if these contracts are renegotiated for a five day week, in view of the rapid escalation of other costs similar bids will be made for five days a week as those made formerly for six days a week. At the present time I believe these contracts run for four years, and if those made four years ago had to be renegotiated the average bidder would ask for more money.

Much has been said in the house since the debate began regarding ways of saving money in the Post Office Department. I am sure the minister will try to do that. I do not blame him for his efforts along these lines and I want to compliment him in that regard. Our criticism must be constructive. There is much good in trying to find ways of saving money in that department. Let us hear more about this from the minister and from all sides of the house.

With regard to the effect of this legislation on local businessmen, may I point out that many businessmen pick up their mail on Saturday and examine it during the remainder of the week end. They do not necessarily

look at the mail on Saturday because they are too busy on that day, especially those who are in the retail business. For that reason the post office should be open six days a week, as are those businesses.

Much has been heard here about the cost of second class mail. Of course costs are involved in handling and sorting second class mail. However most of it is no use anyway; it is more or less a public nuisance. Then, I am sure the newspaper publishers face the future knowing that it will cost them more to have their newspapers delivered. I believe that now they are sent free within a 40 mile radius. I am told that this does not apply to the dailies, or to any publication delivered house to house. Outside the 40 mile radius payment for newspapers is made according to weight. I was in contact with two editors of weeklies in my riding, and they told me this afternoon that the newspapers expect to pay more but also expect value for their money.

The matter of junk mail has been raised several times from all corners of the house. I believe we should reduce a lot of this superfluous junk mail. We get too much of it right here, as members of the house. I am not referring to legitimate mail which is sent to us by our constituents.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. It being ten o'clock, it is my duty to interrupt proceedings and forthwith put the question on the resolution now before the committee. Shall the resolution carry?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Deputy Chairman:** All those in favour please rise.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Motion agreed to: Yeas, 79; nays, 48.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Kierans** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-116, to amend the Post Office Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. McIlraith:** I wonder if it would be agreeable if I were to announce the business the government proposes to submit to the house for its consideration tomorrow? We propose to call item No. 11 on today's order paper, third reading of Bill No. C-109, an act respecting the construction of a railway line in the province of Alberta; then, item No. 5,