

Post Office Act

• (9:40 p.m.)

The minister would have us believe that the newspapers and the publishers will, but logic has taught us for a long time that when taxes go up the consumers always end up paying the piper.

Mr. Speaker, God knows that the cost of living has increased in such leaps and bounds under the present administration that we should not allow that same administration, under the cover of a just society, to act in such a way that taxes are increased once again, for lack of foresight or lack of ties between the members of the cabinet and the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this legislation should be referred to the committee so that all interested parties can express their points of view on the matter. I am convinced that allowing this bill to be studied in committee would serve the Canadian people well.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have just listened attentively, along with everybody else, to the remarks made first by the member for Gaspé (Mr. Cyr) and, right after, by the member for Sainte-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard).

The hon. member for Gaspé told us that he had taken part for two hours in a radio broadcast in Montreal and that everybody told him that they were satisfied with the increase in postal rates and taxes. I think the hon. member would find it difficult to tell us who exactly supported this measure, when we are receiving telegrams of protest against Bill No. C-116 from all parts of the province and the country, and when we read in a newspaper that a committee of 35 Liberal members is opposing Bill No. C-116.

An hon. Member: That is not true.

Mr. Caouette: I think one hon. member has just said that is not true. However, there are others in the lobby who tell us that it is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, among the Liberal members who object to a rate increase, not one was courageous enough to rise. Most of the Liberals from Quebec, for example, were elected on the free publicity given to them by the Liberal newspapers of the province. And today, at a time when they should protect the interests of those who helped them to be elected to parliament, they are glued to their seats with Lepage glue. Not

[Mr. Ricard.]

one dares to rise and defend those who made them win their election.

Let us take as an example the case of the member for Langelier (Mr. Marchand) who benefited from ample publicity in *Le Soleil* of Quebec City. Now, we receive loads of telegrams to protest against this measure from none other than Gabriel Gilbert, chief editor of the newspaper *Le Soleil*. He is sending us rather long telegrams, Mr. Speaker, two pages long. Mr. Gilbert did not send me such long telegrams during the election campaign in order to help me to be elected in my riding.

Now that the hour has come to defend the interests of private enterprise, Mr. Gilbert knows where we are. He knows we are now in the House of Commons and I would like to point out that I share his views, even though he does not share mine in the field of politics. He agrees with the Postmaster General's views. He now complains that the Post Office Department is going to be the death of him.

There are others in the region of Quebec; the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Duquet), for example, who is now in the house and has been well treated by the Quebec newspaper *Le Soleil* when he was given half page publicity on a free basis. What is the hon. member for Quebec East waiting for? Let him rise and take the defence of his sponsors in Quebec city the newspaper *Le Soleil*. What is he waiting for?

An hon. Member: He is stuck to his seat.

Mr. Caouette: He is stuck to his seat. This will appear in *Hansard* to-morrow morning. Mr. Gilbert, of Quebec City, will read that the hon. member was stuck to his seat in front of me this evening.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Laflamme), is doing likewise. He is stuck to his seat, he does not move, he does not undertake the defence of those who helped him to get elected.

In the Hull area, it is the same. The hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) does not rise to his feet to defend *Le Droit* which entirely supported him when he was elected.

An hon. Member: He is ill!

Mr. Caouette: He is ill, yes, as all the Liberals should be under the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, in another constituency, that of Lévis—in the Quebec area—there is the problem of the shipyards. The hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Guay) is here, but he seems to