

Time Allocation

limitation of debate on this particular piece of legislation. I am saddened by this Draconian piece of legislation.

It also saddens me that it looks as though the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party got together, because on this limitation of debate motion I have only heard one Liberal speaker on this particular Bill. It is unfortunate that the Official Opposition has not seen fit to participate in fighting what at other times they would stand up and shout against as the tyranny of the Government. I am saddened by that because they pretend to be the champions of the working class. In fact, when the chips are down they run for cover.

What does the limitation of debate in the House say? First, it says that the Government is incapable of dealing with this serious problem. The very introduction of back-to-work legislation in the form of Bill C-86 is a clear indication that the Government has failed, in spite of the fact that it had a hands-on relationship with Canada Post. There has not been the arm's length relationship which we heard would take place with the creation of Canada Post.

I recall the President of Canada Post, Mr. Lander, stating to a committee of the House that I attended that he could not tell us what the business plan was for the Post Office, because it had not been approved by the Government. So the Government approved the business plan for the Post Office. What was that business plan? It was simply to cut back the postal services to Canadians.

Therefore, this limitation of debate is a clear acknowledgement on the part of the Government that it is incapable of dealing with Canada Post and the problems in the Post Office. It is incapable of ensuring that postal services to Canadians would not only be expanded but enhanced. It is a complete failure on the part of the Government to deal with the Post Office, in much the same manner as the Post Office is incapable of dealing with the industrial relations within the Post Office and with the workers who are involved in the Post Office. It must come to its political masters and say, "Put them back to work".

Mr. Keeper: Bail us out.

Mr. Rodriguez: Bail us out, save our face. We have been failures. Instead of saying to Canada Post, "You go back to the table and negotiate a collective agreement with your employees", the Government has come forward to use the jackboot on the workers in the Post Office. I can only classify this as PTL, punitive Tory legislation.

Mr. Benjamin: Praise the Lord, brothers!

Mr. Rodriguez: I want to tell them that it is not too late to repent. I say to them, repent now, the hour is not late, because in fact the moment of reckoning is at hand.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: Bill C-86 should be filed in the dead-letter wicket. This legislation is an acknowledgement of failure by the Government. The Post Office was in quite a mess when Bryce Mackasey was the Postmaster General and headed the Post Office during the 1978 strike. I recall that very well. I recall Bryce Mackasey, in an attempt to resolve the strike with the Post Office, phoning me up and saying, "Can you get Joe Davidson over here? I want to see him". I recall that vividly. I recall saying to Joe Davidson, "Look, here it is. Here is the technological change clause". He took it out of his pocket and said, "There it is. It will solve the problems in the Post Office". It was laid right on the table, and Joe Davidson looked at it and said, "Well, who is going to sign this?" Mackasey said, "I will sign it. I am the Postmaster General". And Davidson said, "What guarantees do we have that this will continue after you are gone?" Mackasey said, "Well, you have the word of the Government". What good was the word of the Government, Madam Speaker? Sure, we got the Post Office out of the Canada Labour Code. We got it out of the PSSRB. Now it is under the Canada Labour Code, it is a Crown Corporation, but now it has PTL legislation. Is that any improvement?

Mr. Blaikie: What does PTL mean?

Mr. Rodriguez: Punitive Tory legislation, that is the new lexicon. That is what we have over there led by Pierre Bakker. We were all led to believe that going to a Crown corporation, going on the Canada Labour Code, will mean that henceforth the Post Office and its employees would be able to resolve their disputes. What have we got nine years later?

Mr. Blaikie: Betrayal.

Mr. Rodriguez: It is a betrayal. It is absolutely a betrayal.

Mrs. Sparrow: Have you got your shovel, John?

Mr. Rodriguez: It is vengeance with a passion, that is what it is. If one can imagine a Tory in passion, I want to state that they have a pretty vivid imagination.

Mr. Nystrom: There is a volunteer.

Mr. Rodriguez: I have never seen a Tory with passion.

Mrs. Sparrow: Oh, come on, John.

Mr. Rodriguez: Anybody that could move a Tory to passion—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone).

Mr. Malone: Madam Speaker, I have been sitting here reflecting for a few moments. I wonder if I may seek to buy the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) his supper tonight?