

*Oral Questions*

information to the Minister after Question Period so he can read for himself what the trade commissioners and government officials have been saying over the years.

Next week, McClelland & Stewart will be publishing a book by Professor Glen Williams, entitled "Not for Export". It will deal with many more of these memos and documents that have been obtained over the years which point out the restriction on the creation of jobs in this country by branch plants.

I noticed on the news last night that the Minister is now a movie critic. Perhaps he can become a book critic and tell the House, after he finishes the book, what action he plans to take to force the branch plants of the foreign multinationals to export from Canada and thus create thousands of jobs for Canadians, and not for Americans, Europeans or Japanese?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I will be quite happy to review the book for the Hon. Member and give him my best impressions of it. I do not think that he should form his final conclusions based upon the view of one author. There should be great respect for the written word, but it has its limitations.

I say again to the Hon. Member that there are some foreign companies that have better records than others in that regard. But the fact remains that Canada, as a whole, is exporting a larger proportion of our Gross National Product—over 30 per cent—than almost any other highly industrialized country.

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● (1430)

**CANADA POST CORPORATION****PENALTY IMPOSED ON SMALL BUSINESSES FOR NOT USING POSTAL CODES**

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post, but possibly, in his absence, the Parliamentary Secretary could address himself to the matter. Canada Post has exceeded itself. It has now brought in a five cent penalty for small-businesses who do not send their mail out with the proper postal code or size of envelopes. Apparently the reason is that such mail cannot be sorted in the automatic equipment and must be handsorted, which is more expensive. Canada Post has referred to this as being a disincentive to small-businessmen.

I assure you, Madam Speaker, that the small-businessmen of Canada do not need any further disincentives from the Government.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there a question coming?

**Mr. Bradley:** Yes, Madam Speaker. Because of the confusion following this foolish announcement, could the Parliamentary Secretary advise us whether the penalty will be charged to the senders such as the Medicine Hat, Alberta, Chamber of Commerce, or to the receivers, as in Grande Prairie, Alberta,

and whether the penalty charge will be double the rate, as in Medicine Hat, or the single rate, as in Grande Prairie?

[Translation]

**Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows perfectly well that the Canada Post Corporation is an independent corporation. I have noted his question and I shall try to get an answer for the Hon. Member as soon as possible.

[English]

REQUEST THAT PENALTY SCHEME BE HALTED

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Parliamentary Secretary's honesty. I hope Canada Post will not ask the letter carriers to collect the penalty. They take enough abuse for the errors of senior bureaucrats.

I suppose the businessmen in Kingston, now that they have lost their automatic equipment, will be required to pay the total penalty.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. First of all, the Parliamentary Secretary noted the question. However, concerning the second question, I do not know what supplementary question can arise from a question of which notice has been taken. The Hon. Member must be brief.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Good point.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Bradley:** I guess, Madam Speaker, that it is Wednesday.

I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary would also give notice to his Minister concerning a question as to whether he would be willing to ask Canada Post to drop this foolish decision, and to advise and direct it to carry out the instructions of Parliament, namely, to deliver the mail in this country.

**Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I know that the President of the Post Office Corporation is holding a meeting with Members of our Party. I believe it was also in an effort to explain the Corporations policies to Hon. Members of this House that the President of the Corporation met with the Members of other Parties as well.

I am sure the Hon. Member is aware of the many steps which the Post Office Corporation has taken to improve productivity, to improve its labour relations, and basically to improve the service that it gives to the Canadian public. Once in a while it would be nice to hear him admitting some of the good things that Canada Post is doing—

**Some Hon. Members:** What?

**Mr. Berger:**—rather than always emphasizing the deficiencies.