

Government Orders

• (1200)

Of course Canada Post forgets to point out that is for letters that have a typewritten front, exactly in the middle of the envelope, done by machine, certainly not written by some senior citizen or some person in a very rural area of Canada who does not have a computer in their front living room to address their envelopes.

None of these subjects are addressed in this bill. Here we are in the House of Commons debating Canada Post and nowhere in the bill does it talk about service to Canadians. In fact, it does not talk about letters at all, it does not talk about parcels, does not talk about stamps, does not talk about the closed post offices. Once upon a time in our rural areas in Canada we had the one public building in a community which was the post office, and that is where all the business was transacted. That was the centre of activity for the community. In fact, that is the place in a lot of communities where the cheques were changed. It was the banking centre, it was the community centre, it was the place with the Canadian flag on the pole.

That has changed drastically since this government was elected, because there has been an intentional effort, of course, to close post offices and to replace them with these supermailboxes where you have to dig your way into it in the snow. It did, I must admit, provide de-icing fluid for some of the locks a couple of years ago.

Nowhere in this bill that the House of Commons is debating today, and the government just brought in a motion of closure, nowhere in this bill that has been dealt with by a committee of the House of Commons, nowhere in this bill that will now be dealt with by the Senate, is there one word about those matters which affect Canadians when they think about Canada Post. In fact, there is nothing in this bill that any ordinary Canadian would even talk about if you brought up the words Canada Post or if you brought up anything.

Words in this bill deal with such things as redeemable shares, beneficial ownership, security interest, and so on. This bill deals with shares of corporations. This bill deals with the kind of language that Canadians have come to expect from the Canadian House of Commons since this government was elected. This deals with the kinds of things that cause the Government of Canada in dealing with corporations and corporate shares to change the law in Canada in December, just before Christmas, and now

it is a law in Canada today that all of the shares that are held in private trusts that are capital assets will not be taxable for another 30 years. That bill, which meant for the richest of Canadians, the biggest corporations in Canada with tens of billions of dollars held, escaping the capital gains tax, that will be able to be deferred for another 30 years while ordinary Canadians have to pay the GST.

That is the kind of language in this bill. The kind of language in this bill of corporate shares and corporate interests was the same language as was in the bill that defined corporate entertainment under the Income Tax Act, which means that now escort services in Canada are tax deductible. That is the kind of language you would see in this bill, the kind of language that the Government of Canada is interested in, and that is corporate shares, corporate policies.

Do not forget all of these corporate people who receive their \$15,000 and \$20,000 Christmas bonuses, what they call productivity bonuses, approved by this Government of Canada. That is the type of thing you would see, the types of phrases that are used in this legislation.

What is the government doing bringing in this legislation dealing with the post office? It is a good question. Why tie up the House of Commons, the Senate, printing, and everybody else talking about Canada Post when all you are doing is talking about shares and assets? You are not talking about letters, parcels, post offices, service to Canadians, people or anything like that.

What is the government doing tying up the House with a bill like this? You would not understand half of this bill if you tried to read it. As a former law clerk of a provincial legislature, I must say I have difficulty following the blooming thing.

As I finish reading it, I still do not understand the purpose of this bill. You can read the speeches of the Government of Canada and they say nothing. What it says is "we are going to give shares of Canada Post"—the post office—"to employees".

It sounds okay on the surface of it. It is the thing to do in corporations in Canada today. Give shares to employees. Sounds like an admirable thing to do, a great thing to do I suppose until you look at what they are doing. The shares are not defined.