

## Post Office

it has come through to him as yet—that the sickness in the whole system is the issue right now. I refer to the fact that Parliament will recess tonight and the postal service will continue to have its problems and will strike on a rotational basis where some places will get service and others will not.

• (7:10 p.m.)

The fact is that the whole system is on trial here. It is not just the political career of the President of the Treasury Board that is at stake. He may negotiate a settlement, or he may not. The fact is that if the government lets this thing go it will be like a cancer spreading through the whole system.

The government came into office two years ago yesterday, on the basis of—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nowlan:** The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) and some others give halfhearted applause. I suggest the Canadian people would give only halfhearted applause, in view of the great expectations they had two years ago. A government that came into power on a platform of participatory democracy, a just society and all these beautiful sounding phrases which have been preached since Jesus Christ walked out of the Sea of Galilee, is not discharging its duty by letting this sickness continue.

The President of the Treasury Board put a facetious question to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). He asked, "What would you offer"? The Leader of the Opposition, as the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour knows only too well, is not involved in contract negotiations at the table.

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** If the young member from Matane wants to get off the repository for his brains, I will answer any question he wishes to ask.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) has the floor. If the hon. member for Matane wants to make a speech, he can do so afterwards.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. De Bané:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Matane on a point of order.

**Mr. De Bané:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague opposite urged me to ask him a question which he would gladly answer. I shall do so immediately—

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That was not my understanding. I understood the hon. member suggested that if the hon. member for Matane wanted to make a speech, he could make it. The hon. member is now asking whether the hon. member for Annapolis Valley will accept a question.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Matane may put his question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I will try to answer it.

**Mr. De Bané:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member rises every day to speak on any subject. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) asked him to make a constructive suggestion. Is he in a position to do so instead of making speeches?

[*English*]

**Mr. Nowlan:** I have not been making too many daily speeches, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that I am as much an expert on postal services as the hon. member for Matane or the President of the Treasury Board, because my mail is arriving two days, two weeks, two months late. In that way I feel every bit as qualified as anyone else to comment on the postal service.

The point I am making is that Parliament is now going to rise. That is fine. Let us get away from here because conversation, dialogue and debate will not resolve the postal situation. With all due respect to the Minister of Communications, I do not think the postal disturbance will be resolved until he is moved out of that portfolio. I believe that the postal unions in effect would like to have his head on a platter. For what it is worth in a political sense, if that would solve the postal problem I suggest his head should be placed on a platter. The President of the Treasury Board should consider this suggestion. Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting this with any malice aforethought or afterthought.

This debate was called by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) and by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis)—who, incidentally, could not find the time to be here—to try and focus the attention of the government, not just on the administration of