

Government Orders

I have had people contact me when they were trying to save their post offices. Canada Post told them they could call their MP but it would not do any good because it was going to do what it wanted anyway. That is a really nice arrogant attitude to have. It reflects the arrogant attitude of this government.

When there have been two majority governments for eight or nine years, there is a tendency to become pretty cold, pretty callous and pretty arrogant. Canada Post is reflecting that. That type of attitude is certainly not going to endear Canada Post or the government to rural Canadians.

We are saying on this side of the House that Canada Post should be reasonable. Let us work together to provide Canadians with a good postal service. Let us be honest with Canadians. If the government wants to privatize Canada Post, why does it not have the guts to come out and say what it is doing instead of hiding behind these veils of deceit?

It is the same as the Prime Minister in 1985 making the comment that some people wanted to buy the CBC but it was not for sale. Neither was Air Canada for sale. These are famous last words. Since this government has been in power, it has been saying one thing and turning around and doing exactly the opposite. It has a privatization mentality without any regard for the consequences of its actions.

If Canada Post took the objective that what we want to do in this country is provide Canadians with good postal service, then we have some place from which to work. Instead what it is saying is: "We want to privatize Canada Post. We have to do this one step at a time so that we can hoodwink Canadians into believing that it is not going to be privatized".

• (1230)

Mark this member's words: If this government, this party ever forms the next government Canada Post will be privatized before the end of that term. I just thank the heaven above that we have an election coming up in the next few months and that the government is not going to have enough time to privatize this corporation. Rural Canadians certainly are remembering the callous attitude this government has had toward them.

I would like to comment on and underline the frustration that I have felt. I have never been so frustrated in dealing with any aspect of the government or Crown corporations as I have been with Canada Post. Employees of Canada Post, people in management, have told me and others: "You can do what you want and you can say what you want, but we are going ahead with our agenda regardless". I find that disgusting. I find it underhanded. I find it deceitful. If this government wanted to endear itself to the people it should take a little different attitude. It should try to understand what rural Canadians want and what Canadians want in a postal service.

In the city of Moose Jaw we were told by people like Dave Byas, who is one of the PR boys for Canada Post, that Moose Jaw would not be touched. He said there were no plans for Moose Jaw. The fact is that the wicket service at Canada Post in Moose Jaw is going to be closed. It will be re-establishing all the post offices in Moose Jaw and will have four retail postal outlets.

We found that out through someone in Canada Post speaking out of turn. Then we phoned people in Regina, the people who are supposed to know, the public relations people, and they said there were no plans to close Canada Post, there were no plans to change Moose Jaw. That is a lie by those Canada Post employees. That indicates that Canada Post employees are deceitful. That is the kind of attitude that is hurting Canada Post and hurting the reputation of this government.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, I also welcome this opportunity to speak at the report stage of Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act. Perhaps it would be useful to provide some background on the Canada Post Corporation, with emphasis on the 10 years since 1982, when it was created to replace the post office department.

The purpose of creating this Crown corporation was to avoid the problems there had been in the past under the post office department. At the time, the objective was to provide better service, improve labour relations and balance the books. I must say that before the Conservatives came to power, Canada Post Corporation had been well on its way to reaching the objectives set by Parliament in 1982. However, that was not to be. I see I have just roused a few Tories. Maybe they should sit up and