

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

he had been pressing almost weekly since May 1 to have the reports. Far more serious than the failure of his detection efforts was the fact that for many weeks this vital question of employer-employee relations in this trouble-rent department could not be discussed in this house since the subject matter was before the chief adjudicator and therefore sub judice, as hon. members know.

● (10:00 p.m.)

What happened in Vancouver, and elsewhere, is the visible symptom of a condition which was so scathingly detailed by Mr. Martin in his report of April 30. I have in my political and student career perused many documents commenting on the administrative performance of ministerial and governmental bodies, but never have I seen a verdict so decisively rendered. The indictment of the Post Office is searing and scathing as but a few excerpts will indicate.

It is quite clear that...management's conduct has resulted in creating unrest, the undermining of morale, and the development of hostility between the parties.

An assessment of employer attitudes... shows that the employer position is characterized by arrogance and high-handedness.

Lest anyone be tempted to suggest that the adjudicator made an even division of his criticism, it should be noted that he stated:

The employer by its unilateral conduct, must assume the primary blame for the failure of the consultative process—

But what I am interested in now, as I presume are the letter carriers of Vancouver and elsewhere, is the response to the stinging criticism in the adjudicator's findings. I trust the minister this time will break his usual custom and admit that just possibly something might be wrong in his department. He may be no genius at labour relations, nor any speed artist in getting the mail through, but in the field of rationalization the Postmaster General is in a class by himself. Failure? He salutes them all! Black is white! I can imagine him hailing the retreat from Moscow as a triumphal re-entry into western Europe or recommending the Captain of the *Titanic* for a gold-headed cane for his speed and accuracy on target.

But here is a subject too important for even skilful rationalization. Nor is anything really to be gained by blaming the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Côté) or others who preceded the present minister in the Postmaster General's chair. Sir William Mulock can hardly be blamed for the kind of condi-

tions which brought on the Vancouver sit-down or the adjudicator's report.

I would like to know what has been done since Chief Adjudicator Martin found the department so lacking in this aspect of employer-employee relations. What changes have been made? What new personnel have been put to work? Have any transfers been made? Have any new policies been adopted? Has there been any last minute willingness to desist from the stubborn insistence on the five day delivery and the straight-through system where the whole trouble began? Without tangible evidence of a change from the deplorable situation now chronicled for us by an expert and respected adjudicator, there is cause for grave anxiety in reference to this vital part of the public service.

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I see that the Merry Monk from Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) rides again! The hon. member for Hillsborough has reverted to his June 9 question dealing with wildcat strikes in Vancouver to continue his scolding of, and nagging harangues against, the Post Office. Since there have been no strikes in Vancouver or anywhere since that time, one would normally conclude that both management and their union colleagues were working out solutions, but not the hon. member for Hillsborough. He prefers to continue to berate the Post Office with a repetitious rehashing of any incident, even weeks and months old, in order to downgrade the service that is provided by the 48,000 loyal and dedicated employees of the Post Office.

He has the ear, and he knows it, of those publishers in this country who want the Post Office and the taxpayers of Canada to subsidize their operations and their customers secretly, under the guise of what they call freedom of the press. If the press of this country want subsidies, and will repeat incessantly the statement of the hon. member for Hillsborough, let that hon. member present their demands to this house.

This government is determined that the 48,000 postal employees shall have security of employment and the better working conditions, facilities and training to which they are entitled. They know this. Both unions know this. This government is spending 40 times the puny amount of \$15,000 that the last Tory government spent on management training for 41,000 people.

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