

to the Post Office Department. As I have said, excise stamps and not postage stamps were supposed to be placed on cheques, with the revenue being allocated to the Department of National Revenue; but the habit of using postage stamps instead of excise stamps was allowed to continue.

As to the wage increases, I have no criticism on that issue. I never thought the Post Office Department employees got too much money, and even with their increases they will not be paid too much.

There is a good deal of dispute about the five-day week. We ought to face the fact that a five-day week is not being introduced into this country by legislation. Neither the House of Commons nor the Senate has passed legislation for a five-day week. It has been adopted as a policy in the case of the Post Office Department. Whenever the question of wages arises in parliament, the fact will have to be met that the government has given recognition to and approved the five-day week. The labourer is worthy of his hire, there is no question about that. But the competition for world markets has to be considered. The other day the Right Honourable Minister of Trade and Commerce replied to the requests of a delegation in this manner, "How can wages be paid, let alone be increased, when the product manufactured is being priced out of world markets?" Germany is really determined to sell goods in world markets, and Japan is showing an equal initiative.

I agree with the honourable senator from Queen's (Hon. Mr. Jones) that legislation for a five-day week has never been passed by either the elected representatives of the people in the House of Commons, or by the appointed representatives of the people in the Senate. I say that is not proper. If the government, or any other body wants approval given to the five-day week, legislation should be passed to make it standard throughout Canada. Of course, I do not think farmers could possibly adopt the five-day week: they would have to work Saturdays, and Sundays as well, to get their crops planted and harvested.

Honourable senators, I have enumerated what I understand to be the three causes of increased costs in operations of the Post Office Department.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: The rural mail carriers also were given an increase.

Hon. Mr. Haig: As I have said, I do not object to the salary increases.

The Deputy Postmaster General furnished us with those three items in committee this morning. Then I asked him a certain

question, and he did me the compliment of saying, "I expected you to ask me that question."

Hon. Mr. Euler: I think he said he hoped you would not ask it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, he said first, "I expected you to ask me the question; I was waiting for you." What I asked him was this: "Outside of the items I have mentioned, how is the Post Office Department's deficit incurred? Is it through the handling of first-class mail, the handling of second-class mail, or the handling of some subsidiary matters?"

I will deal with the subsidiary matters first, because they are quite small. The Post Office Department sustains a loss of \$2 million a year on registered mail. It costs the public 20 cents to register a letter, but the handling cost to the Post Office is 35 cents. Although I do not pretend to be the greatest business man in this chamber, I know a little about business and something about law. In my law office in Winnipeg, and of course in other law offices too, it is a common practice to send out certain notices by registered mail, and that is equivalent to personal service of these notices. To send a notice by registered mail costs 20 cents, but if the party were served personally by a bailiff the cost would be \$4 or \$5, or if the personal service was by a member of my staff it would cost \$1.50.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: How much do you charge the client?

Hon. Mr. Haig: According to what we spend. Personal service costs the client money, and I object to imposing any avoidable charges upon him. I do not like saying to a client, "We have to charge you \$1.50 for service". The point I want to make is that registered mail is of benefit to the people. I know it is of great benefit to the legal profession. Men write to my office by unregistered letter about their standing in the military service, and enclose papers of value. When the charge for registration was 10 cents my office used to return those documents to them by registered mail, but since the rate has increased to 20 cents we have stopped using that service.

The argument is advanced that if the registration fee is increased to 35 cents there will be fewer users of registered mail. That may be true in small businesses. The only way the Post Office Department would be affected is that fewer people would have to be employed on registered mail. That does not mean that some employees would be discharged, because the introduction of the five-day week will make more employees necessary, and it would only be necessary to