

Government Orders

know that at the end of the year 10 per cent of that pre-tax profit that will go toward buying shares for distribution among the employees.

This allows a company to make a better product at a better price. Magna is now as competitive as the Germans and the Japanese. This is the kind of comprehensive approach that we need for the basic idea of equity participation and profit sharing for employees. It is a totally above the board approach where everything is in the open. Management is as accountable as the employee. It is not something like this which is only a partial measure.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, to begin I would like to congratulate my friend and colleague from Broadview—Greenwood on his speech today.

I would like to mention today that Canada Post intends to close at least 5,000 rural post offices across Canada. The member for Broadview—Greenwood spoke well today about the federal presence in rural communities and I would like to commend him for that. I know that he lives in Toronto and people there tend to lose sight of a country from coast to coast with rural communities. But I know my colleague and he knows Canada. I can also assure my constituents that he knows the situation throughout the country.

• (1220)

I would like to ask the member to give us his opinion on Canada Post's decision to close rural post offices. I know that in my riding of Restigouche—Chaleur, the closure of a post office in Pointe-Verte has just been announced. Mayor Maxime Lejeune and his council oppose this closing; the citizens and I oppose it.

The member spoke about a federal presence in the communities. Could he perhaps comment for us on these policies of Canada Post?

[*English*]

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question.

One of our members in the House spoke earlier about some ideas that could be introduced into the postal service. He mentioned banking services and I think that is a good idea.

The problem we have is this government. By the way, it does not matter who the next leader of the party is, it can be the member from Vancouver or the member from Quebec. Essentially what we have on that side of the House is a philosophy that it retreats from national government. It has been the greatest retreat from national governance in the history of our country. If it looks at something and it is not showing an instant viability it cuts it, trashes it and just gets rid of it.

I cannot understand the problem that most business people have. I know there are a few people over there that have business experience, but they obviously do not have any influence on this cabinet. In business when your viability is in jeopardy, creativity comes into the boardroom, into the plant or into all facets of the business. The idea is to say that if we are losing sales and we are not viable, how are we going to diversify? How are we going to get more product into the pipe to make the enterprise more viable so we can keep it alive, so we can keep our people employed?

Government has an added responsibility. It is not just that we have to be concerned with fiscal responsibility and with taxpayers' money, we in governance have to make sure that those regions of our country that do not have the critical mass in terms of population have the same national standards as a person does in a richer centre.

That is part of what being Canadian is all about, having national standards or national services. It does not matter what part of the country you are from, whether you are from a disadvantaged region, rural Canada or downtown Toronto. This government has totally missed the boat on that particular feeling or attitude in the country as a whole.

I see the Minister of Supply and Services here. I know in his department of government there is a lot of good creative Public Service talent. Why could we not take some of these rural post offices and make them centres where we would not only supply some of these banking machines but make them centres where small businesses could come in and maybe bid on government contracts?