

*Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987*

them from the corporation. I think it is most unfortunate. It is a very sad commentary on the Post Office.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my hon. friend's speech on this critical issue. Is it his understanding that the short-term goal of the Government in terms of its directives to the postal corporation is to actually phase out the postal system of Canada as we know it in terms of the small rural post offices and community post offices in the suburbs? These are places where many of us can meet many of our constituents at one time because many residents visit the small community post office between 10.30 and 11 o'clock. Is it his understanding that it is the plan of Canada Post Corporation to phase out our postal service as we know it, and is doing so essentially under the direction of the federal Government?

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear from the deterioration of service which has taken place in the rural parts of my constituency that one must have this fear about the future which my colleague has mentioned. One has to have a sense that Canada Post no longer sees service to small communities and rural parts of Canada as a priority in the future. I think it is pursuing this lack of priority by cutting back support for rural postal routes. I think it is looking very closely at closing down post offices in small communities in my constituency.

● (1120)

The rumours certainly have gone around with respect to post offices, for instance, in La Salle, which is one of the small communities in my constituency, that they would be shut down and people would have to pick up their mail in the future at so-called convenience stores or drug stores which, in the case of the particular community of La Salle, are seven or eight miles from the main heart of the town itself. The post office is right in the middle of this old French community. So the signs are there, although I hope that it will turn out simply to be the efforts of this Government to pressure Canada Post far too hard and that a new Government, when it is elected, will see that Canada Post shifts back to its original commitment to provide service to our rural communities and our rural people right across the country.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties and I think you will find there is consent for the following order to be passed by the House.

That, when Bill C-86, an Act to provide for the resumption and continuation of postal services, has been given second reading this day, it shall stand referred to a Committee of the Whole; and

That the adjournment proceedings this day, pursuant to Standing Order 66, be suspended; and

That the normal hour of daily adjournment be suspended and the House shall continue with consideration of the said Bill.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the Hon. Minister have the unanimous consent of the House to introduce the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, indeed there have been discussions and we have had some very clear indications from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) that the amendments suggested by the labour critic of the New Democratic Party are being considered, that he is at least open to evaluating those amendments and will respond at the appropriate time, we hope in the affirmative. Therefore, we feel it is important that we get on to discussing ways and means of improving this legislation and this special order is a way to facilitate that debate.

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, we were then ready to go to committee because we thought the time had been reached where we could better put our point of view across through moving amendments. We have also had discussions with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) who showed an open mind and who appears to be receptive to some of our amendments. Therefore, in this respect, we are quite willing to agree with this order, and I say that on behalf of my Party.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent in respect to the order?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There were two minutes left in the question and comment period of the speech of the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). Resuming debate.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I too want to participate in debate on Bill C-86, an Act to provide for the resumption and continuation of postal services. I want to remind the House that when this Bill was tabled there were postal services and mail was moving. Yes, there were a series of rotating strikes followed by a series of lock-outs by Canada Post, even though it likes to suggest it was a scheduling problem more than anything else. By the time this Bill was tabled there was no emergency, no hue and cry in the country from any sector. In fact, there were suggestions by a lot of groups which would normally be considered anti-Post Office and anti-CUPW that things should be left well enough alone.

This Government, for whatever reason, and we have our suspicions, decided to bring in this legislation. It decided to use the heavy hand of its majority to accomplish phase two of its over-all vision for Canada Post. In phase one, of course, it is trying to dismantle a system, by no means perfect, instead of rejuvenating it, using this legislation to force upon the workers a collective agreement that is in tune with the corporate plan. That corporate plan is one that will actually lead to a further deterioration of postal services.

During my speech this morning I want to give some examples of this new efficiency, this new level of service that