

sector was almost unknown. Now it is a business competing with the Post Office department.

Could the minister also tell us what steps have been taken to compete with that business. Could he also tell us what will be the effect of the postal rates on small business and the economy in general as it has been mentioned that it could also represent an additional cost for individuals and senior citizens?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, of course there will be an impact on the small businessman, but on the other hand we want to eliminate the subsidies we are granting directly to every Canadian taxpayer. With the deficit we have to face, it means that every Canadian must pay \$25 a year in taxes to maintain the postal service. There are very few businesses, small businesses or individuals that are spending as much money on the Canadian postal service as on private enterprise service.

As concerns small businesses, we are trying at the same time that we raise our rates to improve our communications with them, to encourage our postmasters in various communities to discuss the improvements that should be made in services and to inform small businesses on the best way to use the postal service and to provide them with a more efficient means of communication. Mr. Speaker, I might say that among all post office users, small enterprises are the ones most adversely affected by service interruptions caused by strikes or other work stoppages.

Therefore, I have always considered as my duty since my appointment to suppress those interruptions and, up to now, there has definitely been success and I hope that in the future we will eliminate the word "strike" from our postal vocabulary. I sincerely hope the hon. member will support us in this respect. Concerning the second part of his question, we are competing as effectively as possible with private enterprise which is providing services in parcel delivery. We are opposing an application made by the American UPS which wants to extend its parcel delivery service in Canada. We are now in court. We were successful in opposing them before and we hope that eventually they will decide to go back home and stay in Germany because, as the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) just suggested, what happened in Germany is that close to 50 per cent of parcel revenues were lost to the organization called UPS. From there the postal service went into, not a study, but the establishment of an express delivery system between major centres where there was a need for it.

We have recognized that the service must meet the increased demand in the marketplace for additional services never before offered by the department. Heretofore this had been covered by the intrusion of and swarming by private courier services in that market, but we are now doing a very aggressive penetration to take away from them as much business as we can. We have established the service referred to by the hon. member, that is between major centres like Montreal and Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton. We are now joining in the competition for the so-called Premium Mail Service, and we hope we can eventually increase our revenues by competing more efficiently with private enterprise in the marketplace.

Order Paper Questions

Mr. Clermont: Mr. Speaker, the minister spoke of strikes. What progress has been made in the way of reducing differences in the postal sector, because each work stoppage or strike, entails increased expenditures for the department?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier to the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale), we have established an inter-group system very much in the spirit of true industrial democracy, under which there must be two channels of communications with employees, that is delivery men and postal officers. The negotiations channel we obviously enter into each year is also a channel of consultations at every level, national, regional, district and local. Employees, that is delivery men and their supervisors, meet with management to discuss their problems and eliminate—

● (1642)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not want to interrupt the minister, but I have turned down other members who have tried to get into areas other than the Post Office. We are now branching off into labour relations, which I think is a new subject.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME ALLOCATION FOR SECOND READING OF BILL C-11

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 75C, I wish to inform the House that it has not been possible for the representatives of the parties to reach an agreement pursuant to Standing Order 75A or 75B with regard to the allocation of time for the second reading stage of Bill C-11, an act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds. Therefore, I wish to give notice that I shall move, at the next sitting of the House, that five additional hours be allocated to the second reading stage of the said bill.

Mr. Paproski: Closure.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 182, 271, 288, 381, 404 and 410.