

*Private Members' Business*

I heard the remarks of the hon. member for Cambridge. In the beginning he invoked cost as a reason not to do this and then said he did not really mean cost, he just said it as an aside. I am paraphrasing here.

The member for Cambridge should be aware if he has read the bill—and the bill is only about 20 lines long—that under the bill the size of the flag and the material is to be designed by regulation to be promulgated by his government. Therefore there is nothing that stops us in a retail postal outlet operated by the private sector to have a flag which would be in the form of a decal, for instance, to be affixed to the counter, not at a cost of \$150, but at a cost perhaps of a few cents. That is what we are talking about in the case of a privatized outlet. Needless to say, if it were a Canada Post structure, owned by the corporation, we would expect an outdoor flag of the kind that is customary.

I remember two years ago getting a phone call from an irate constituent in Navan, Ontario in my riding, complaining about the fact that the flag on the post office was all ripped and that it looked terrible.

**An hon. member:** Faded.

**Mr. Boudria:** Not faded. Faded would have been the least of her worries. I phoned Canada Post. After a month of trying I finally gave a flag to the constituent to take to the postmaster because no one had had the smarts to replace it in spite of my requests and those of my constituent. Is that acceptable for a federal government structure? I say not and my constituents say not.

Furthermore, let us remember what is in the Canada Post Corporation Act, the law of the land as it is today.

[*Translation*]

Section 5(2)(e) of the Canada Post Corporation Act stipulates that, and I quote:

While maintaining basic customary postal service, the corporation, in carrying out its objects, shall have regard to—

—listen to this—

(e) the need to maintain a corporate identity program approved by the Governor in Council that reflects the role of the corporation as an institution of the Government of Canada.

Therefore the Canada Post Corporation now must identify itself as an agency of the Government of Canada. Have you seen recently the Canada coat of arms on a post office? The Canada Post Corporation abolished it. When have you last seen the traditional flag design on the logo of the Canada Post Corporation? The corporation abolished it in contravention of the existing law. The hon. member for Cambridge and others who think likewise approve of that kind of behaviour. I do not nor does the hon. member for Restigouche—Chaleur.

[*English*]

In April 1990 the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations published a report called "Moving The Mail". I have a copy of it here. In the dissenting report, if you want to call it that, there were additional recommendations or additional clauses proposed by the Liberal Party. I authored many of these clauses and in particular this one. Liberal recommendation No. 40, which is part of Liberal policy as we speak now and has been approved by our leader, is that Canada Post restore its corporate identity program to reflect the role of the corporation as an institution of the Government of Canada. Anyone at Canada Post listening right now better take heed because that is what we want. That is what we want and that is what Canadians want.

[*Translation*]

Most of the time in rural Canada, as my friend from Restigouche—Chaleur said so well, the post office is the only federal building. That is where we get passport forms, birth certificate forms, old age pension forms, et cetera. In many villages, only the postmaster can certify a passport. It is an important position. Maybe that does not mean anything to some hon. members on the other side or even to officials of the Canada Post Corporation, but to many of us in rural Canada the postmaster and the post office are very important. They represent the federal government.

• (1945 )

[*English*]

When we founded this country, one of the reasons we did it was to defend our borders, have a universal currency within our boundaries, and deliver the mail. Those three reasons are still there and they are still valid.