

Post Office Act

He should make that magazine pay more for bothering the Canadian people with stuff they do not ask for and do not want. The magazine sends out second, third and fourth reminders. They even send you a card with a number on it and tell you you have won a prize. We want the minister to say, "We will put up your mailing rate and make you pay whatever it costs the Post Office Department to handle all the junk that you send out." If the minister wants us to stop talking and allow him to get the floor and close the debate before ten o'clock, we will not do it, Mr. Speaker.

Mailing rates are to increase another cent for first-class mail on July 1 and another cent on January 1 next, bringing the rate up to eight cents. The rates for these magazines will not go up, yet each day they take up the time of the post office and the time of the community. The effort put out by the Post Office Department on these magazines is far out of proportion to what they are entitled to when one considers what they do.

I wish to cite another example. I recall that a publication was put out by the metropolitan Toronto policemen's association. It was a mimeographed, monthly newsletter, Mr. Speaker, and the association used to spend between \$300 and \$500 a year on postage. Their rate has now gone up by 400 per cent, so they do not send out the publication any more. Here was a perfectly legitimate, non-profit communication sent to a group of Canadian citizens who belonged to the association as a result of their occupation, and the minister "upped" their mailing bill. He did not "up" the mailing bill for *Time* and *Reader's Digest*. Those magazines must be candidates for social welfare because the Post Office Department still lets them get away with murder.

Unless the minister can come up with similar exemptions for publications such as I have mentioned, and until the treasury can pick up the deficit resulting from the imbalance in mail as between the United States and Canada, he need not ask us to hold still while he seeks to increase first-class postal rates. If you divide two into 42 you get 21. If old age pensioners send 21 additional letters, that will take up the 42 cents the government gave them when it increased the basic old age pension. How can the minister expect us to listen and wait with bated breath while he increases the first-class mailing rate? Until we have an assurance that the minister will say something about the items which have been mentioned, and until we have an assurance that he will deal with them seriously, we will hold up this bill.

An hon. Member: Until when?

Mr. Benjamin: Perhaps until July or August. This just does not wash, Mr. Speaker. You cannot justify an increase in first-class mailing rate so that we can pick up the tab for freeloaders who deal with the Post Office Department. You cannot justify an increase in the first-class mailing rate for people who have lost their rural mail delivery and their rural post offices and who now get mail once a week instead of three times a week. You cannot justify an increase in the first-class mailing rate until you have corrected some of the deficits we have mentioned.

[Mr. Benjamin.]

What we have tried to say, and what I have said in the last few minutes, has been said several times by other hon. members during the last three years. No minister in charge of the Post Office has dealt with these issues. Until the minister deals with them we will not permit him to get away with increasing the first-class mailing rate. It is as simple as that. Why should the first-class mailing rate be so high when *Time* and *Reader's Digest* are sending out brochures asking people to buy more books, more records, and are offering prizes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

HOUSING—DECISION RESPECTING ROCHDALE COLLEGE, TORONTO

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, the record will show that I have been attempting for many months to obtain a full and satisfactory answer from the minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation on the question of an outstanding CMHC mortgage on Rochdale College in Toronto. In fairness to the minister involved I have taken into account the fact that during that period there were extenuating circumstances in the Rochdale account which have tended to complicate the matter. There is the fact that Rochdale masquerades as an educational institution and these institutions normally receive preferential or at least less rigid treatment from lending institutions.

However, the complications in the Rochdale account have been due largely to the attitude of the minister rather than to any points of law or any regulations with regard to amortization of CMHC loans. I submit to the minister that if the Rochdale loan had been made to me instead of to the college, the loan would have been foreclosed many months ago, the Canadian people would have their money back and they would have a building to cover the defaulted principal and interest payments.

I have watched the proceedings with respect to the Rochdale College loan over a period of many months and am deeply concerned over the way in which a loan of such magnitude has been permitted to fall 14 months in arrears. I am concerned that the minister has of his own will and accord chosen to view Rochdale College in a way that is inconsistent with the regulations under which CMHC is required to operate and totally inconsistent with sound business and management practices. If all Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation mortgages were serviced in a like manner it would not take long for an overactive imagination to conjure up a vision of complete and utter chaos in Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation operations.