

[*Translation*]

Mr. Della Noce: Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, they do not even have the courtesy to listen as we did when they spoke.

As I was saying, there is a serious problem of attitude in the Post Office. I can see it in my riding, and I am sure many of my colleagues could say the same. Now, in our post offices, the customers get bawled out. People are very frustrated. I was even told, and I had the same experience myself, that it is impossible to get a smile from a post office employee. It is frightening! My colleague for Jonquière (Mr. Blackburn) said that there is a total lack of motivation in the postal service. I believe him. No one smiles, no one cares. It all belongs to the Government. We go on strike, and our demands are met. Sure. That is what we used to do. Today, Mr. Foisy mentioned in his report that Canada Post had the right to franchise postal services. I found some newspaper clippings, and I have an article, published in *Le Devoir* on October 9, that I would like to quote: "As far as postal services are concerned, this Bill could put an end to a quarter century of bungling, when politicians bought peace at any price. It is too bad—"

I hope Hon. Members will listen, because this is for them! "—the NDP Opposition has not understood this and is taking advantage of this opportunity to make some cheap politics instead of taking the longer view to consider the public interest."

Here is another one: In the past, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers managed to make major gains in strikes under the Liberals, who caved in to demands for a settlement at any price.

Well, we certainly cannot blame the unions. I want this to be quite clear, Madam Speaker. I am not against the unions. When they get something they want, I say more power to them. But I think we have to go further than that to settle the problems at issue here. Obviously, we want to put an end to this dispute, and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) was quite accommodating: If there is anything you don't like, we might be willing to change a few words!

No, they said. Let the strike go on. Things will get better. We can have a debate and make some cheap political gains and even get on television on the evening news! Madam Speaker, that is not what the business people are saying in my riding. They say: Settle the problem once and for all. They need the service, which is very important to small businesses.

They also talked about scabs and strike-breakers. The fact is that in Quebec it is even harder than in the rest of Canada because that problem was settled during the big strikes we had in the past. I don't like strike-breakers. I am against all that. You can't do that.

However, I must say that Quebec has dealt with the problem, and maybe other provinces across Canada will do likewise to deal with a problem that, I think, can only lead to violence. The real purpose of the Bill is to have our mail delivered without violence. It seems that after 15 months we

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have not succeeded. There were negotiations, but they failed. People are sick and tired of playing musical chairs. We are going to wait again. Are we going to wait another 15 months? Are we going to wait another six months? Are we going to wait for someone to die? This week a woman was wounded in both legs. Do we want her to die? Do we want more people to get hurt? I think we are trying to make something out of nothing.

There is no way to bargain. Maybe they should impose a negotiator who might be more successful. The unions and the NDP are saying that jobs will be lost, and that the negotiators dealt with this and that.

Madam Speaker, are you aware that there are in Canada 12,000 postal counters? Only 417 of them are manned by unionized workers. There is the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. The Union is saying that 4,200 jobs are already jeopardized, creating the impression of further lay-offs. Would you believe that these people think there are going to be 4,200 lay-offs? They are wrong. The Corporation has offered job security to all its employees. The people who are listening to us must be wondering: What are they fighting over? What are they negotiating? They are negotiating the franchising of the postal services.

We have reached a point where a small group of employees want to tell their employer: That is the way you are going to do it. As you probably know, Madam Speaker, I was once a boss myself. I was a boss and a union supporter once, and I have never allowed my employees to dictate to me how to run my business, because each time I did, I lost money. For instance, I have negotiated with, watched and listened to my employees. I have worked with them and obtained some success.

Madam Speaker, they should not claim that some jobs will be lost; it is all right for the NDP to try and make cheap political gains, but no job will be lost. Violence must stop. I do not like the way things are going. I wish that within the past 15 months, the parties had reached a negotiated settlement. The Minister of Labour said the same thing, and we are part of the Government, not the Opposition. We must act responsibly and decide in the best interests of Canadian businesses and individuals, making sure that they are getting their mail. Our honourable friends opposite should go to the United States: They would realize that there are no strikes there any longer. There is service. In the United Kingdom, they are getting their mail within 24 hours, while here, we are not even able to get it within a week, with a smile.

• (1700)

[*English*]

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Madam Speaker, it is a sad day for Parliament and democracy. Every single time that the Government, with its vast majority and its great weight, has to use closure and the limitation of debate in the House, it is a sad day. It is a sad day that it has imposed