

*Private Members' Business*

For the past three consecutive years the Canada Post Corporation achieved a profit. This is after 30 years of relying on taxpayers' dollars to keep Canada Post running.

• (1710)

Corporation president Donald Lander, management, and all Canada Post employees deserve a great deal of credit for turning this corporation around.

Canada Post also has the second lowest stamp prices in the world, and surveys show that very high levels of customers are satisfied with mail service. In 1990 independent auditors reported that mail delivered on time reached an all-time high of between 97 and 99 per cent.

It is clear that when Canada Post is functioning as it has been designed to Canadians enjoy a very efficient and reliable postal system. However, the corporation's strike record is dismal and Canadians cannot function with an unreliable postal system.

A Markham businessman, Wayne Urquhart, is one of many constituents urging the government to adopt legislation to ban postal strikes. He said:

I am tired of various postal unions holding us at ransom every few years. In fact, many small business people like myself, as well as neighbours and friends, would like to see a law put in place to disband this particular union.

I agree with my constituents, such as Mr. Urquhart. We must act now, because if concrete changes are not adopted Canadians will be hurt again when the CUPW contract is up for future negotiation and the threat of a strike will loom again.

I do not want the people of Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville to suffer at the hands of Canada Post's unionized workers. The only way to ensure that we do not have to wait idly by and watch as Canadian seniors line up for their pension cheques and risk heat exhaustion is by outlawing future postal strikes.

This is not a new idea. In 1987 I put forward a motion that would change the Canada Post Act and outlaw any strikes affecting postal delivery. It was debated in September 1988, but unfortunately it was not adopted at that time.

My more recent private members' bill is another attempt to make this much needed change to the section of the Canada Labour Code that deals with Canada Post.

This legislation is the only means to effectively and permanently bring about this change. As a nation we cannot continue to allow businesses, seniors and others whose daily existence is dependent on the cheque being in the mail to suffer.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, just to explain to some people who may be watching I was making sure that there was a Liberal speaker available and was told by the House leader's office that the Liberal member who will be speaking on this is chairing a committee and will take a few minutes arriving. Therefore, I will be speaking first.

The legislation before us in many ways blames the victim. The person who introduced the bill talked about the consumers and the businesses who suffered during the postal strike. That is true and it is a concern for those of us in this House. That is something we have talked about in this House. However, to take away the workers' right to strike is not the solution.

We did not have a long strike last summer. For that matter, this House passed back to work legislation if not in record time in almost record time. The legislation was not before this House for very long. We went into a legislative committee and met one evening to hear a witness from Canada Post, a witness from the union and then came back. After we had some assurances from the Minister of Labour this legislation ordering the postal workers back to work passed in very quick order in the House of Commons.

I am happy to have the opportunity to speak on this bill because it gives me a chance to say that the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada were deceived by Canada Post. I would add that the Minister of Labour was deceived by Canada Post.

Last week, Don Landers, president of Canada Post, appeared in front of the consumer and corporate affairs committee of the House of Commons and I asked him questions.

As I mentioned earlier today in a different speech, I asked them about the closures of post offices. I could not get the president of Canada Post to tell the House of