

destroy the existing arrangement for second-class mail and run the risk of unfavourable competition. The department is giving good service and I do not think it should be hindered in its operations.

Hon. Norman P. Lambert: Honourable senators, I wish to add a few words to what has already been said about second-class mail service. I attended the meeting of the Transport and Communications committee this morning and listened to the evidence, especially that of the Deputy Postmaster General, and I could not help feeling that the question of second-class mail should have received closer analysis. I feel that is particularly true in view of the references that have been made here, and I say that with all due respect to the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig).

I was brought up in a country newspaper office, in the days when newspapers were not as well off as they are today. Two competing weekly papers were published then where now there is only one.

The Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association is a very efficient organization, which serves the interests of weekly papers in many ways. There is abundant evidence that weeklies are doing well, and that is gratifying. Their editorials are better expressed than they used to be, and their volume of advertising has increased considerably. In short, weeklies are wielding throughout the country an influence far beyond that of past years. I pay this tribute with conviction, because I have observed the growth of that influence and I know something about the problems of editing and producing a weekly newspaper. If a closer examination of the functions of the weekly newspaper were made, more accurate data would be available than we have thus far received.

Another point I wish to make is about second-class mail. Reference has been made to the distribution of daily newspapers by carrier and by truck. The time element involved does not permit their carriage by train. But some publishers of daily newspapers issue a Sunday edition in the form of a magazine. These editions, which are very bulky, are sent out early in the week in order to reach far-distant points like Vancouver and Halifax. They are despatched across the country by train and mail at the rate of four or five cents a pound, as against the proposed rate of five cents per ounce for letters.

Honourable senators, I think more information should be obtained and a closer analysis given to the proportion of second-class traffic handled by the department.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: I could not help feeling that although the chairman of the committee afforded every opportunity to ask questions, a good deal more information could have been given and much more light shed on this problem.

Hon. George P. Burchill: Honourable senators, I should like to support what the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) has said. I feel very much as he does on this question. But I have had a lot of inquiries from people, both heavy users of the mail and ordinary letter writers, asking the very questions put by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig). And, frankly, I have not been able to answer them.

I am not a member of the committee which considered this bill this morning, and was not present at the meeting; but I have heard what the honourable leader opposite, who is a member of the committee, has said about it. After listening this afternoon to criticism of the bonusing of newspapers—

Hon. Mr. Haig: I said "second-class mail".

Hon. Mr. Burchill: I got the impression from listening to the debate that under this legislation letter writers would be bonusing the newspapers of this country. I think that idea may be a bit unfair to the newspapers.

Perhaps the bill should be passed this afternoon, but I certainly agree with those speakers who have said that a closer analysis should be made of the whole postal question, so that the people of this country will know what the true situation is. The suggestion made by the honourable senator from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Bouffard) may be the answer. Nevertheless, I think we should know the facts in order that five cents postage may not become a permanent impost on the letter writers of this country. I am all in favour of further investigation.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Question.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Question.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the question is on the motion of Hon. Senator Macdonald, seconded by Hon. Senator Lambert, for the third reading of Bill 168, intituled "An Act to amend the Post Office Act". Is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Carried.

Hon. Mr. Haig: On division.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed, on division.