

*Postal Service*

our community will be in a position to complain that they have not been dealt with under the law but rather have been dealt with by the extension of some power that was not intended for the particular purpose for which it was employed.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that what has happened raises a wider issue. Steps should be taken to protect the people of this country from racketeers. Steps should be taken to provide a more effective method for preventing the appeal to people, by any fraudulent device, for money for speculative purposes. At a time when great developments are taking place, people naturally become interested in those developments. Every one of us knows that at the present time, from many parts of this country, circulars are issued appealing to the speculative instincts of the people in regard to some of the great developments. The public should of course be warned that anything of this kind is a speculation in any event; that they should not put money in risk ventures of the kind unless they recognize the fact that it is a risk, and that they should only put in anything of that kind such money as they can afford to lose. But having said that, I submit that the time to strengthen our laws, so that those who seek to obtain money by improper devices may be brought before our courts and dealt with effectively, is when the opportunities which are presenting themselves naturally encourage people to venture in some of those speculative enterprises.

To a great extent this country has been developed by speculative activities. Many of the important activities of this country, such as the large producing mines, were at one time, in their early stages, highly speculative. There is no suggestion by the government—and I am not imputing any such suggestion—that speculative activity of that kind should be prevented. On the contrary, it was clearly stated that we wished to invite risk capital; and it was suggested that it would be an encouragement to risk capital to make sure that, in speculative activities of this kind, fraud should be prevented. The way to deal with that properly is either to prosecute under the law as it stands, or, if the law is not wide enough to deal with fraud of this kind, to amend the Criminal Code. But we are taking great risks with our traditional system of trial by the courts if, in our desire to prevent activities of this kind, we give to officials of any department the power of a court, of a jury and of a sheriff as well, and deny the people the

[Mr. Drew.]

opportunity to carry on their business simply on the decision of that official. In this case regulation 204 provides:

If it be established to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that any persons are using or endeavouring to use the post office for any fraudulent or illegal purpose, then in any such case, it is hereby declared that no letters, packet, parcel, newspaper, book, or other thing sent or sought to be sent through the post office by or on behalf of or to or on behalf of such person, shall be deemed mailable matter.

It is under that provision that these orders have from time to time been made; and from time to time under these monthly supplements of the Canada official postal guide we see the names of the organizations and individuals against whom these orders have been made. I have before me the supplement for March, 1950, which does not include those issued against the brokers here under discussion, but does include a number of other names of organizations and individuals. I do not propose to read those names into the record, because I think it would be most unfair that they should be mentioned in *Hansard*. That, after all, is one of the reasons why such great care should be used in connection with a matter of this kind, because set out here are the names of organizations which would ordinarily be regarded as very reliable. It cannot fail to do them harm that a formal order of this kind has gone out declaring that the mails shall not be available to them.

I see just on these two pages in front of me in this single supplement the names of branches of the Legion, of a religious order, of a teachers' organization, of an insurance company, of a labour organization, of a curling club and of an athletic committee—and the names of a number of individuals. Then under these orders are these words:

Registered letters are not to be accepted addressed to the above, and all mail addressed to or coming from the above is to be intercepted and sent specially by first mail to the administration branch (for the dead letter office).

I cannot find anything in regulation 204 which provides authority for a procedure of that kind. This is more than a refusal to individuals of the use of the mails; it is very clearly stated that the mail of these individuals and organizations is to be intercepted and sent to the dead letter office. What happens then is not stated, and what happens then needs to be clearly understood by members of the House of Commons if we are to know exactly what is taking place.

Let me point out another feature in connection with this situation. The orders referred to by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) and the Acting Postmaster General (Mr. Lapointe) are related to certain brokers