

*Post Office Act*

I am not standing here today to hold up this measure. Without making any criticism about the just society, or any other remark of a provocative nature, I should like to ask the minister what his response has been to these logical complaints and positions which have been stated? What has been the response?

**Mr. Kierans:** This has been considered. Every newspaper in Canada delivers its newspapers to us under the terms and conditions we have worked out. This has never at any time been charged against the cost we actually assess against the newspaper company. I may say in respect of the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, a subscription now costs \$14. A subscription delivered by mail costs \$32. Our cost of \$9.50 is passed on to the subscriber. This amounts to \$23.50 which is well below the \$32. I appreciate the hon. member's point, but this is a practice which prevails across the country.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Chairman, I did not understand the minister's reply. Did I understand him to say that a newspaper I dropped into a mailbox in Halifax which is carried by the Royal Mail, or the Postmaster General's department—perhaps I should use that term so as not to be provocative and upset any tender hearts across the way—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Don't get me upset, because time is running out. Is the same price charged in respect of newspapers dropped in the mail at Halifax for delivery to Sydney and in respect of newspapers which are delivered by the publisher to one distribution point? I cannot understand why this should be so, in view of the fact that in one case the mail is transferred by department vehicles and employees and is sorted and delivered, just as is the case in respect of first class mail? Is that same price charged in respect of newspapers delivered from, say, Halifax to Sydney by the publisher for distribution by the Post Office Department to the rural areas?

**Mr. Kierans:** We do not work out the cost of delivering newspapers on the basis of one newspaper dropped in a mail box. We work out a cost of delivering newspapers across the country on the basis of 6.81 cents and we are asking by this bill to increase this amount by 2 cents.

**Mr. Nowlan:** The minister is a reasonable and a logical man. Will he not agree with me that my proposition is sound? It is cheaper

[Mr. Nowlan.]

for the post office department to receive the *Halifax Herald* in Sydney for distribution in that area than to receive it in Halifax and have to deliver it to Sydney for distribution? This is the situation in Nova Scotia because of the size of the province. Many newspaper publishers deliver these newspapers to a main distribution point.

**Mr. Kierans:** I agree with the point made by the hon. member.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Perhaps I will not receive much response to this question, because of the lateness of the hour, but does the Postmaster General not think it would be a good idea to strike a special rate for newspapers when there is a bulk delivery to the point of distribution?

**Mr. Kierans:** The majority of newspaper companies across Canada do this and they have been given full credit for the costs they have incurred.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Do I understand that the minister would not entertain an amendment to strike a special rate to cover this situation?

**Mr. Kierans:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**The Chairman:** Shall the amendment carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Baldwin:** No.

**The Chairman:** Shall clause 4 as amended carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Baldwin:** No, we want a standing vote.

**The Chairman:** Shall clause 5 carry?

**Mr. Baldwin:** No, we are not—

**The Chairman:** Order, please. Does the hon. member for Peace River have something to say?

**Mr. Baldwin:** We are not disposed to accepting clause 4 or the amendment. I gather we are still on the amendment, are we not?

**An hon. Member:** It was passed.

**The Chairman:** I did not detect that the hon. member had said anything from his seat. Is there some objection to the amendment?

**Mr. Baldwin:** Yes.

Amendment (Mr. McIlraith) agreed to: Yeas, 53; nays, 12.