

Government Orders

However, the thesis being advanced in defence of the bill would seem to carry that in its wake.

Let us examine another possibility, in my opinion a far more probable one, which is that some employees take up the offer to hold shares and many do not. This effort to create a new harmony and enthusiasm at Canada Post would then create a situation in which some employees are owners of the corporation, though not effective owners, and some are not. What do you suppose that is going to do for employee morale and functioning? What do you suppose will be the result of a situation in which there is a clear cleavage within the work force at Canada Post, on one side being those who have at least a residual corporate interest in the corporation and on the other those who remain, simply and straightforward, employees. That is the situation we are going to have.

In that situation I cannot but suspect that the outcome will be greater rancour, lower morale, greater disputation and unease at Canada Post. That will be the outcome of this government's bill. I find it difficult to believe that the government does not understand that.

Therefore, I find myself looking for other explanations for the introduction of the bill. However, before moving to that I would like to note a couple of instances of circumstances that have created the ill will, the lack of co-operation, the distress, and the unease at the post office.

As members will recall, April 28 has been declared by this Parliament to be a national day of mourning for workers killed and injured in the work place. It is a most worth-while observance and one that we in this House observed with a standing moment of silence.

When the members of the Edmonton local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers went to Edmonton management and said that they too would like to observe April 28 they proposed three possible means of doing so. They proposed that the flags on corporation facilities could be lowered to half staff, they proposed that a minute of silence could be observed during each of the shifts contained within the 24 hours of April 28, and they proposed that employees wishing to do so could be permitted to wear black armbands during the day.

The response of Canada Post management, in fact it came from the labour relations manager for the entire

foothills division, was: "No no; and oh, all right, but only where nobody can see you".

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They were three perfectly harmless, reasonable requests from the employees at the Edmonton local and Canada Post management made a perfectly Draconian and unreasonable response. If you think that this is somehow uncharacteristic of operations at Canada Post, you have not been paying attention.

I recall one afternoon about a year and a half ago which I spent in my constituency office. The afternoon was almost entirely consumed talking to a Canada Post employee, a young woman who had been injured on the job, who had gone for physiotherapy, had been on worker's compensation, and according to her doctor was now prepared to go back to work under light duties. Canada Post management at that time said: "Sorry, there are no light duties you can perform. Therefore we require you to go back to full operations, and if you cannot do that your contract of employment will be terminated".

I spoke to this young woman for about three hours in my office and several times during that period she was reduced to tears, to weeping in my office. It was not a pleasant experience. I can only imagine what it was like for her. This is also indicative of the kind of compassion evidenced regularly by the management of Canada Post.

On June 19, 1991 there appeared an article in the *Toronto Star* by Mr. Peter Edwards in which it was reported that:

A high-level law enforcement agency likely bugged the headquarters of Canada's largest postal union during the last mail strike, according to a confidential report by a former military surveillance expert.

"It is obvious that the telephone system has been compromised," concludes the study, obtained by *The Star*. "Therefore, the telephone system should not be used to relay information that is considered sensitive".

The headquarters of the union is bugged. This is the action of a co-operative, indulgent management or government? No. This is the action of an outfit, regardless of which it was, that is determined to crush the legitimate organized voice of the employees of Canada Post by any means necessary. We are going to jolly them up by offering them fake shares? It is absurd.