

*Government Orders***CANADA POST CORPORATION ACT**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope; and on the amendment of Mr. Boudria (p. 10744).

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to speak on this bill, but I am not pleased with the content of what I have to say. It is very negative. It is not as optimistic as my general notes are when I got up to speak in this House.

**Mr. Tobin:** And your nature.

**Mr. Mifflin:** And my nature.

**Mr. Milliken:** Optimistic.

**Mr. Mifflin:** Or indeed the nature of my riding. I represent a group of people who like to be optimistic, who like to toe the line. They work hard. They like to belong to a system in which they work hard and the government is responsive in turn to the way they look at a democratic system. But I have to tell you that right now they are beginning to wonder what sort of a system they live in.

There have been three issues since I have been elected that have haunted the people of my riding. There is no other word for it. One was the goods and services tax, which they could not afford. Another one was Bill C-21, which mucked up their unemployment insurance. They are still trying to come to grips with that.

We have a situation right now where the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte had attended a demonstration in his riding two days ago, a thousand people from St. Anthony, people who normally do not demonstrate. I have been to St. Anthony many times, fine people, excellent people.

As I stand in front of the House today, I have a demonstration being organized in Clarenville by the plant workers of the Bonavista peninsula. They are not just livid with the government. They are not mad with just the fact that something is not being done. They are worried, they are anxious. They have to show that they are concerned and nobody is listening to them, not a soul. We are listening to them. I am listening to them. This side of the House, I know, is listening to them because we met this morning to discuss the subject of fishing. However, this bill relates to the post office. That is the third thing that has got not only the people in my riding upset, but throughout Newfoundland and rural Canada, as much as these other two major issues that have put off Canadians with this government.

• (1610)

Why are they put off with it? I have to slow down, Madam Speaker, because it is a very, very upsetting subject. They are put off with it because it is part of the business of closing down Atlantic Canada. My constituents wonder where it is all going to end. They are not going to be very pleased today when they see Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation, which permits the sale of 10 per cent of the corporation to employees. They will ask "Where does it go from here?"

To my mind this is nothing more nor less than the first step to privatize the Canada Post Corporation. Why bother going through this step? Why not be straightforward with the bill? Why not be up front with Canadians and tell them that we want to privatize Canada Post, instead of going through these diversionary methods?

I am delighted that the member on the other side of the House, the government side, nods his head. I do admire his courage because he is obviously in the same situation that I am in my riding, and others on this side.

I want to give the facts here. I want to state what the numbers are. In the last two weeks alone I have been involved with the shutdown of the Shearstown post office, the whole community, and Bay Roberts and Baredneed and Port de Grave. They are all upset. That is just in the last two weeks.