

*Post Office Act*

**Mr. Cyr:** Let us vote immediately on this amendment, in order that we may achieve something and do what our people have sent us here to do, namely work for the welfare of them all, and I think that the filibustering going on at present will do no good to the country.

• (9:20 p.m.)

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say at the outset that I intend to be brief.

My colleague the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) criticized constructively and in detail this afternoon the measure concerning and the operation of the Post Office Department. However, Mr. Speaker, I cannot but take advantage of this opportunity tonight to present the views of my constituents concerning Bill C-116.

Mr. Speaker, the measure now before us may greatly and unfavourably affect the taxpayers of my riding as well as others, and I shall pay no heed to the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Cyr) who has just urged us to support this bill. In my opinion we are here to serve the best interests of our constituents and, by expressing their views and voicing their objections to the measures presented by the minister, we are only doing our duty.

Like many others, we could very well do without the advice of the honourable member for Gaspé, because he changes his mind a little too often. While last week, he was campaigning against his own minister, today he kowtows to him and acts as the spokesman of the very person he was fighting against last week. Mr. Speaker, advice coming from such a frivolous person should be dismissed with the same speed as the one he would like us to use to pass this measure.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Cyr:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to your attention the fact that during our discussions last week there never was any question about the bill. . .

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Would the hon. member resume his seat, please. There can be only one point of order at a time, and I am trying patiently to listen to the point of order, or the alleged point of order, of the hon. member for Gaspé.

[Mr. Cyr.]

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, what is the merit of his point of order?

**Mr. Cyr:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to you that during our discussions in the previous weeks, consideration of Bill C-116 never came up before the minister's statement—

[*English*]

**Mr. Stanfield:** That is no point of order.

**Mr. Ricard:** There is no point of order in that.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Asselin:** The hon. member who just had the floor did not even tell Mr. Speaker that he was raising a point of order, and he rises on a question of privilege. Therefore, let him resume his seat since he has no reason to raise a point of order. Besides, he is delaying the debate and the passage of the bill.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard).

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I agree with you that the member for Gaspé had no cause to rise on a point of order and, as my colleague for Charlevoix just said, the member for Gaspé is only holding up the passing of the bill, which he would have us rush through.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, in introducing his measure, the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) referred four or five times to the just society he would like to see in Canada. It would seem that it is in the name of that just society that the Postmaster General wants to increase the postal tariff, to reduce postal services and do away with 1,500 jobs which Canadians now hold. If that is the idea the hon. minister has of a just society, I think he should reconsider what a just society is and reconsider his plans for the future.

As a former provincial minister and in view of the aspirations the minister had last April, it is quite proper that he should try to impress the house and the whole country. It is quite understandable that the minister