

Government Orders

only in ridings represented on this side of the House that we are losing post offices and railways.

Speaking of railways, Canadian Pacific is abandoning part of the line from Saint John to Montreal. It is abandoning from Saint John to Sherbrooke. It is a very valuable line, now that we have the free trade agreement with the U.S. Why would we give up a line that goes to the U.S., could probably be hooked up with U.S. lines and get right to the midwest, into the big centres like New York and others? Why are we pressuring Atlantic Canadians? Why is ACOA not going out to see if we cannot handle that line, keep it going, keep it active and keep the railway going?

We do not have that. It is the same when we think about the post office and privatization. This government has to provide some services for Canadians. We have a large country. To be able to send a letter to the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia or Calgary we need to have a system for the approximately 26 million Canadians that benefits them and that they have a say in. I have not seen that.

• (1635)

People across Canada are questioning this government's spending of the taxes it collects. I think that is why people are so dissatisfied with politicians and people in this House. Right across Canada we hear them ask what we are doing here in Ottawa with the taxes that are collected.

In the 1960s ordinary Canadians could buy a home and send their kids to college on one salary. Today you can have a mother, a father, the children at an early age, the university students and the technical students all working to try to maintain a home and send the kids to school for further education.

We hear this government claim that we have to educate our youth. For the first time I am seeing youth who are trying to be educated without much help as a priority and yet we are told they do so much for Canada.

I think Canadians are sick and tired of hearing what this government has done. It has decreased services in practically every area. It has increased taxes to such an extent that people are hurting and hurting badly. They cannot understand how we can just sit around in this House as politicians, go home on weekends, listen to the

people and come back here and not have an effective role to play. We are not effective when we cannot even see that it is a priority in Canada not to privatize but to have an efficient postal service for all Canadians.

I think it is a priority. I would like to know if Canadians feel that way. Perhaps they can improve the service at the post office. Perhaps they can start providing a more down to earth combination of urban and rural services. This is a big country. This is a great country and those are national institutions that this government has systematically done away with. That is why it is so important for this bill to be defeated. Without the Canadian approval I cannot believe we are just undoing another national institution, another service to Canadians who see their taxes going somewhere but not affecting them.

I realize my time is over very shortly but I do want to say it is time the government started listening to Canadians. It is going to have a leadership convention but that is not going to change the attitude we have put up with, or I have put up with for four and a half years. The government has been insensitive and has not paid any attention to the proposals we put forward and this is just one of them. Canadians do not want to see the government privatize Canada Post like Air Canada and our railway system. They do not want to see some of our national institutions go out the door without even being able to vote on it.

Let us hope the election comes soon. I think Canadians want to vote this government out because of its lack of caring about the spending of Canadian taxes and the hard-earned dollars of Canadians which it has controlled.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be able to participate in this debate with regard to Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act. As previous speakers have indicated, the substance we are dealing with really provides very little in the way of an incentive or solution to some of the problems we are being confronted with at the present time at Canada Post.

• (1640)

One could intellectually argue that making shares available to the employees of Canada Post Corporation is a positive feature of the evolution of governing and particularly of the way Crown corporations operate.