

*Government Organization*

I would say however to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières that while it is well and good to tighten our belt, but we must not allow others not to wear any. Many have none at all. They benefit nevertheless from the whole economy, from the increase in interest rates and capital of all kinds, with the more or less tacit consent of the present government.

So these people or institutions must assume their responsibilities. If they fail to do so, the government will have to do its duty and intervene.

[*English.*]

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Chairman, in rising to speak in this debate today I should like to bring to the attention of the minister a few matters that affect the people of my constituency of Fraser Valley West. I should also like to examine briefly the philosophy behind some of the recent moves that have been made in the Post Office Department. Like the hon. member for Timiskaming who spoke earlier, I am not an expert in Post Office procedure and do not pretend to be. However, I am the perfect recipient, the punching bag, if you like, for some of the complaints that have been made by people in my riding, and as the member for the constituency it is my duty to bring them to the attention of the minister.

I believe that the Postmaster General is attempting to run the Post Office Department like a stock exchange. I think he would agree with me that people are not stock, not even livestock. They are people and they resent any kind of fiat or orders from on high on matters that affect them especially when they are not given a proper opportunity to make their representations or adequate time in which to do so. This sort of thing is resented by the people generally, no matter what department or government agency is concerned, and by me also.

I am sorry to say this because the minister made a profound impression upon me during the height of the recent Liberal leadership campaign. I felt that he would have been the best man for the future of Canada to lead the government party. I do not feel this way any longer, however, because he has departed from the role of an articulate visionary of Canada's future to one of petulant arrogance. All of his defence mechanisms are working overtime, as one who is insecure in the decisions he has reached. He adopts a kind of rigidity or inflexibility that indicates to me a contempt for the people with whom he deals.

29180—410

In my constituency two historic post offices have been marked for the axe. The one at Port Hammond has been given a partial reprieve but only at the expense of denying the people there a postal walk service in the area. The people have been told, in essence, that they can have a postal walk service or a post office but they cannot have both, and as the matter stands now they can take it or leave it. I ask the minister, why not a postal walk service originating in Haney that is also co-ordinated with the post office in Hammond? The post office in Hammond is particularly useful to the business community there. Surely anybody who is able to grapple with the problems of communications and the various technical problems connected with satellites ought to be able to solve a simple problem like this. Therefore I bring it to the minister's attention and I hope he can see his way clear to do something about it.

The other post office that is slated for extinction is in Langley in the community of Walnut Grove. I have received a huge petition from the people in that area which indicates, to me at least, that the residents there need the post office. This post office is right on the edge or fringe of suburbia, and the whole area will certainly be one of rapid growth during the next few years.

But what I protest most vehemently is the manner in which I have learned about these problems. I learned about these premeditated moves affecting postal services in my constituency not from the minister's office but from people who live there. They have written to me about them, but I do not think that is good enough. As the member who represents these people in this house, surely I should not be the last to know. Surely the minister's sense of public relations and common courtesy ought to indicate that the member representing the constituency should be the first to be advised if such moves are contemplated.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I am certain other hon. members have received this kind of information. I have not. Such information may go to the various regional desks, and I suppose my people could learn there what is going on. But I was kept completely in the dark, and I think that is a poor way to operate. I am certain that members supporting the government have always been given the chance to break to their constituents news of pork barrel measures, which sometimes include post offices. Similar courtesy ought to be extended to