

*Post Office*

An act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act  
 An act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act  
 An act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act  
 An act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act  
 An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1971.

[*Translation*]

**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26****POST OFFICE****ACCELERATED DISRUPTION OF SERVICE—  
FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT OF  
DISPUTE**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House shall now resume proceedings under Standing Order 26. The hon. member for Lotbinière.

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take up the time of the House, but I would like to sum up my views in three points.

Before the interruption, I was saying that I wanted quite honestly to blame the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) for being mainly responsible for Canada's postal mess.

Despite his promises and his attempts to set the Department in order, not only with regard to finances but most of all with regard to the personnel, it looks as if it will probably be a financial success but a total failure as far as the personnel is concerned.

That was the second point I wanted to deal with, Mr. Speaker. I had talked about it in a previous debate on the postal issue affecting Lapalme employees.

As far as personnel relations are concerned, the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications is—I am sorry to say it so bluntly—incompetent. There is ample evidence of it. The incidents that would prove it would outnumber the fingers of both hands. The ability of the minister as administrator is surely not similar to his ability as director of personnel.

Since the present Postmaster General has been supervising his personnel, problems have been increasing and multiplying. Conflicts are worsening, relations are strained and no solution seems to be in view.

The people are losing hope, they were quite ready to pay for such an essential service, but it must be adequate.

[Mr. Speaker.]

It is high time that the government be changed or that the responsibility of managing the personnel be taken away from the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

Mr. Speaker, this step would represent at least 50 per cent of the solution of the postal problem.

Considering the climate prevailing among the manufacturing industry workers and the tensed relations between employees and employers, one can appreciate that there are wrongs on both sides.

The utterances of the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications for the last two years suggest that only the employees and their unions do wrong. I will honestly admit that union leaders too often serve their own interests instead of the organized worker's interests. In fact, they misuse their power, blackmail the public at large to draw attention to themselves, thus spreading disorder in the firms they represent.

I am not one of those who would grovel before union leaders. Contrary to expectations, many cases show that too often the human side of the situation, the basic respect for the human being are forgotten, as well as the fair working conditions. To summarize, the human side of a question should always be considered rather than one's own interests. The Postmaster General and Minister of Communications will admit that many union leaders thus become responsible for numerous conflicts.

● (5:20 p.m.)

I will point out to him that he is precisely one of those who have made matters worse, provoking the union leaders who, in turn, have spread anger among employees, so that today, utter disorder prevails in the Canadian postal service.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I have said in a speech on the subject: a key department such as the Post Office and Communications Department ought to set an example to other departments in excellent, lively and dynamic human relations between employers and employees.

As long as the present Postmaster General fails to realize it, as long as his personal ideas take precedence over the human element and as long as he continues to trample the rights of the workers in order to get the credit for having put things in order within his department, the Canadian population will no longer enjoy an adequate postal service and the department will be without employees.