

Routine Proceedings

wonder if the member could tell me what procedural moves he has proposed to hold this government accountable for their destruction of the postal service in our country.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be a procedural adviser to the New Democratic Party caucus.

Mr. Gauthier: I wouldn't let you do it.

Mr. Boudria: It is the last thing I had in mind. My House leader says he would not allow it, and I thank him, because that is a very wise decision. It is an interesting proposition for a House leader to entertain, that is allowing Liberal members to advise the NDP—not that we would do it anyway.

Seriously, my colleague should know that you do not move concurrence in a report that you do not want. To say that that is the only trick he could come up with is just not good enough. Mr. Speaker, you do not move to adopt something that you oppose. I do not understand that proposition. I do not know how the idea ever came to the hon. member, but it is not for me to ask where that idea came from.

I could give some free advice, perhaps, to my colleague. For instance, I asked questions on the report yesterday, and the day before, through a mechanism reasonably well known. It is called Question Period. I have raised questions on two separate occasions during Question Period. I have also issued press releases regarding it, another device which is relatively common here.

After one raises an item in Question Period, there is also a procedure known as the adjournment debate. One can use that mechanism as well. In addition to the adjournment debate, one can move a private members' motion, and place it on the Order Paper. This is another reasonably well-known device. One can always ask for an emergency debate, ask to adjourn the House under Standing Order 52 and have an emergency—

Mr. Gauthier: You are giving them advice.

Mr. Boudria: Sorry, my House leader says I should not be giving advice, but I was asked to provide alternatives.

It is hard not to do so when I am being urged on like this, notwithstanding the wise counsel of my House leader.

I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I do not ever recall moving to adopt something that I was against.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the advice of my learned colleague.

I would like to ask the member another question along similar lines. As he is aware, even though the privatization of the Post Office issue has been kicking around for some time now, it has never come forward for debate. Questioning the minister is one thing, but the minister and the government have not brought matters to the House so that backbenchers could comment on the closure of post offices in their own constituencies.

I am wondering if the member is aware of situations in any constituencies in this country, outside of his own, that might prompt members of the opposite side to rise, and to talk about the saving of rural post offices, about the saving of rural constituencies. Is there any need for a full-fledged debate on what Canadians want in an accountable postal service in this country?

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have just illustrated five different devices available to members in order to debate these issues.

We could go through the Standing Orders one by one on some later occasion and probably come up with a number of other ways. But I have enumerated five different ways in which this issue can be addressed in the House. To repeat what I said before, I cannot propose something that I disagree with. I just do not want to do that, and there is some difficulty in terms of that proposition.

My colleague also—I thank him for the compliment—referred to me as a “learned” colleague. I am not a lawyer. I appreciate the compliment nevertheless, but I am not learned in the law. I wish I were, but I am not at the present time. Seriously though, in addition to what has been raised, my colleague asked if there are examples of Conservative members of Parliament losing post offices in their constituencies.

• (1210)

I know through speaking to people at Canada Post that the Minister of Health personally objected to the closure of the post office in his riding, that he literally had a