

ing six-day mail service in the near future? If one wishes to mail a letter for a reasonably assured delivery on Monday morning, you have to get it into the mail before 4 o'clock on Thursday night. This does not make sense. I am speaking now of western Canada.

Mr. Myers: There is no thought, at least at the moment, of reintroducing six-day delivery service. There are probably two or three factors, one of which is that this costs a lot of money, probably in the order of \$15 million.

Senator Cameron: It costs a lot more than that to the business community, because they have not got it.

Mr. Myers: I am not at all sure about that. The business community, by and large, can rent a box and get the mail if they must have it. It is surprising how many people in the country really agree with the five-day delivery service.

Senator Cameron: It is surprising how many people in the country have switched their business from the postal service to the facilities of the Greyhound, if they want a letter to be delivered at a certain time, all the time. Many firms in Calgary and Edmonton are doing the same thing. So you are losing money, and you are going to lose more money.

Mr. Myers: I do not know whether that is altogether due to the withdrawal of the Saturday service.

Senator Cameron: It is a big factor.

Senator Smith: This interests me, but I do not wish to argue with my friend Senator Cameron. In my experience, in the case of people you do business with—I do not know about the small towns on Saturday—certainly, when I walk down to the business district of Ottawa on a Saturday, I do not see anybody but the janitors. So what is all this about business needing the six-day service? If you are talking about people wanting mail service or wanting to work on their mail, outgoing or incoming, they can send mail out if they wish, but I do not see that anybody works on a Saturday any more. Is that a valid argument? I always assumed that was the reason.

Mr. Myers: I think the question is one of delivery. The Post Office, of course, works over the weekend. Mail is being processed and transported to the delivery office. There is no question of our simply stopping the processing of the mail over the weekend. On the question of delivery, if one has to have delivery on Saturday there are always boxes available. I do not see that the alternative services, such as Greyhound, offer anything better than this. They certainly do not deliver to the business firm or home. Someone must go down to the bus depot and get it.

To sum up what I have said, there is no thought at this time of reintroducing the Saturday service.

Mr. Pageau: Senator Cameron raised a good question, that businessmen sometimes resort to several means and pay a fair amount of money to get a message on Saturday because they are not ready to mail at 3 o'clock. We

are reorienting the Post Office's attitude to meet the new needs of business in the field of speedy communications.

The bus companies are not providing a service the same day. However, we are already looking into the matter of speedier communications. We know that this is a new requirement, and our competitors are thriving on this business. They skim the milk and we have to go everywhere, to where there is perhaps no money. We are trying to get into this field. Several countries have done so already.

Senator Cameron: What times, after 4 o'clock on Thursday, can a letter be delivered to the main office, the Senate Post Office or the Besserer terminal so that one can be sure that it gets out? How many times does mail go out on Saturday, and does it go out on Sunday?

Mr. Myers: I cannot answer the question as to how many times it goes out.

Senator Cameron: Does it go out at all?

Mr. Myers: Yes.

Senator Smith: Are you talking about the Senate service?

Senator Cameron: No, because the Senate is closed. On Thursday you have to get a letter in before 4 o'clock to make sure that it gets out to Calgary. How many times is mail picked up at the Besserer Street post office or at the main post office on Saturday, and is it picked up on Sunday?

Mr. Myers: Yes. By and large, there would be one pick-up service on Sunday at the boxes in the city. On Saturday there are usually two.

Senator Cameron: Is it really two, or is it a question of hit and miss?

Mr. Myers: The main cities have two. I am not sure about Ottawa.

The Chairman: In Winnipeg we have two on Saturday and one on Sunday, at the letter boxes on the street.

Mr. Pageau: Mail is despatched in the usual way on available planes or highway service trucks. The post office will accept mail later.

Senator Blois: Are there any regulations as to what hours the post office opens for box holders? I have had a few complaints. For instance, on Saturdays post offices are often not open after 6 o'clock in the evening for people to get their mail from locked boxes.

Mr. Myers: The problem concerning locked boxes is perhaps one of the most confusing that we have to face. The general rule is to provide the hours of service that people require, if possible. The general rule is that in most offices throughout the country we leave the doors open for 24 hours unless there is a history of vandalism or other factors which mitigate against it. The general policy is to try to accommodate the service needs of the people in the particular location.