

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

important printing industry? There is little use in the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) setting up new job hunting offices if, through the actions of the Postmaster General many skilled workers are thrown out of employment. The minister, of course, has responsibility for his department. He seeks to make it efficient, and so he should, but he cannot disassociate himself from his collegiate responsibility as a member of a government which should have the economic well being of all Canadians on its mind.

There seems to be a growing development of administrative separatism in this government. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) rightly suggests that the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials should be removed. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) has different ideas. The printing trade goes to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce for redress from a situation resultant from actions of the minister's colleague, the Postmaster General. It is my hope that both ministers will heed this call for help and that we will not have to produce a lengthy casualty list of extinct publications at some future date to convince the minister that he did not in fact give sufficient thought to the consequences of his drive to make the Post Office patrons put that department in the black. He should have listened to these people. Printers should have been given a chance to air their views and present their information before a house committee.

● (10:10 p.m.)

Things are so serious that the spokesmen for the industry should still be called before a committee before it is too late. The Post Office has been running into trouble for months. Large and important sectors of society are fearful of the results of the new rate. The communication of ideas from Canadians to Canadians is in real jeopardy. The threat from United States competition, always great, has vastly increased. The whole problem should be thoroughly reviewed before it is too late. It is not enough for the minister to say he knows better. The dismal facts are given in this brief. Publications will die. Unemployment has already been caused across the country, and more will follow. Some trade unions have already indicated their intention to mail from the United States, to Canadian addresses meaning that the Canadian Post Office would have to deliver their publications without a cent of postage revenue. We have the story now from various places in the country and the record is not a very happy

one. One medium-sized company reports its postage costs up by 257 per cent. Three magazines have been eliminated and three others cut down; there have been staff reductions.

The United Church Publishing House reports postage costs up from \$40,000 to \$170,000, a loss of advertising revenue, and lay-offs affecting staff. We find that in British Columbia a small printer reports postage costs up from \$5,613 to \$18,547. Two publications have been killed and employees laid off. The War Amputations Association of Canada, a most wonderful organization well known for its key tag service, reports an estimated increase of \$90,000. The future of 42 war amputees is jeopardized.

So, it goes on down the line. I read in the *Globe and Mail* of March 26 that a magazine established in 1935 and having a circulation of 4,600 is folding up because of the massive increase in the postal rate. Another article carried the heading: "Canadian Journals forced into U.S.?" This is a serious situation, and in this context the document to which I have referred is a most valuable one. It is not a happy document but it is one to which heed should be paid very soon before we get into real trouble.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):

I always enjoy the Cassandra-like remarks of the hon. gentleman. I think the members of the Graphic Arts Industries Association, the printers, the artists, the designers who are all part of that organization, charge all their costs to their clients. They charge even more than their costs; they add an amount for a profit. But apparently they are not ready to admit that the letter carriers, the sorters, all those 48,000 people who work in the Post Office, should also be paid for their work and should be paid in accordance with the cost of carrying out their duties, and not be a burden upon the general taxpayer.

All these people claim they have a particular right to dig into the pockets of the Canadian taxpayer. They are unwilling to concede that the costs of the Post Office can be legitimately charged for and legitimately priced. They prefer that these subsidies should be hidden, that the taxpayer should pay. And the taxpayer himself is the vulnerable person here. He has no organization as have the members of the Graphic Arts Industries Association or the publishing industry, all of whom I have been prepared to see, and have seen. I have listened to them and talked to them. I have read the report, although, as the hon. gentleman suggested, it was sent not