

Government Orders

the backwash somewhere. God help you if you live in a small community.

We know darn well that if we get into privatization of postal services, the next thing that will happen is that the services in the outer reaches of the country will diminish. Toward the centre and in the larger centres services will increase because that is where the money is made.

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): That is what a watch-dog would take care of.

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): I hear the hon. member opposite. Let us get real here. Once we start dealing with the private sector, there are way too many members of Parliament who are lobbied far too heavily by high-priced lawyers and lobbyists in Ottawa.

The hon. member shakes his head. He should have sat down lately at the consumer and corporate affairs committee and listened to the banks wailing that they are not making enough money when they made \$3.4 billion in profits. He should see the effect they have on government members opposite whenever any changes are proposed in any of the committees of Parliament dealing with their preferred position.

He knows as well as he knows his own name that the corruptness of the political system allows that as long as political parties are financed by private sector donations, the private sector companies that have the donations to give are going to seek a day of atonement.

I would like to see a Canada Post Corporation that has a renewed mandate to provide a certain level of service and that that certain level of service is delivered right across this country according to those standards in the most cost-effective manner possible. That is what I would like to see. In terms of those new areas it is getting into to provide a better service to Canadians like a private courier service, I would like to see it get the heck out of there.

Here is one of the problems we had. He talks about getting into the private sector. I personally would like to know how much money Canada Post lost on its courier service last year. I happen to know that almost every national courier service in Canada last year lost big bucks. I want to find out whether or not that competing priority courier service lost money. If it did, why in the

name of goodness are people paying for it when they go and lick a stamp to mail a first-class letter?

The member opposite talks about the private sector. That is what starts happening when we have Crown corporations with national mandates to provide levels of service and they start tinkering with the private sector where they really should not be.

The hon. member has raised a number of interesting points. He talked about privatizing this and privatizing that. Perhaps he tells us the true agenda of the back bench and the front bench as well.

In conclusion, no, I am not for privatization. I am for the efficient management of the Canada Post corporation and fair treatment of its employees.

[Translation]

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak to Bill C-73. The constituents of Saint-Laurent—Cartierville are concerned about the fact that this legislation does nothing to improve postal services. This bill, which amends the Canada Post Corporation Act, is merely a first awkward attempt at privatization.

To quote my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, even Margaret Thatcher had the good sense not to privatize the British postal service.

Instead of building a postal system able to meet the needs of a country the size of Canada, the Conservatives are now destroying another Canadian institution, an institution that maintains links between all the regions of our country.

[English]

Liberals and in fact all Canadians do not want to see the privatization of Canada Post, which is something the bill does through the back door. In fact this bill is not even attracted to those people who would like to see Canada Post privatized.

The fact that this proposed legislation only allows employees to acquire non-voting shares is an attack on the rights of postal employees. By only giving the employees non-voting shares the government is denying them the right to have any direct input into policy-making decisions or administrative functions and is preventing them from being on the board of directors.