

*Postal Services Continuation Act, 1987*

know from reports over the long weekend that there is damage and that there have been numerous incidents of violence across the country. People have been injured, fortunately not seriously yet. Well, broken legs or being hit by bricks is pretty serious, but no one has died and no one, so far at least, has required extensive medical treatment, we think.

However, how long will that be the case? If opposition Members say that they are prepared to delay this legislation for as long as they are able to use the rules to do so, then they ought to recognize that in essence they are saying that they are prepared to see this violence continue and are prepared to accept that injuries may occur. That would be very, very irresponsible on the part of any parliamentarian in the House. They have a position to take. They have made their positions known. They have articulated the disputes they have with the Government, as is quite proper in this place. It is quite proper in this place that we then divide on it, that we have the vote and we proceed. The use of delay tactics for the sake of delay tactics when we are talking about the personal safety of Canadian citizens is something I would urge the Opposition to give very careful consideration, before deciding on any position of delay for delay's sake. That was the purpose.

On the question of the point of order and the supposed document, the notes I have been reading from, I am supplied with this information on a regular basis. It is part of my job as a Minister to be up to date and aware. I brought it to the attention of the House fully in debate. I was quite prepared to share documents, but in view of the actions, the attitudes, and the precedent which might be established, I will regrettably say "no" to that action, for to say otherwise would be a note of approval or recognition of the appropriateness of opposition actions in this regard, which I do not think is warranted.

**Mr. Murphy:** Madam Speaker, unfortunately the way the Minister ended off his speech by refusing to table the document indicates the real problem in this dispute, and that has been the attitude of the Minister.

He has quoted from a document. He has used part of a document. He has given not only the House but the public a certain viewpoint because of the document from which he read, but he refuses to give the entire document to the House or to the people of Canada. I think that is a sad reflection of the way the Government has handled the dispute.

I may point out that if we had the entire document we may see other problems which could be associated and directly related to the role of Canada Post.

There have been documents in the past, documents which I have raised in the House, the internal documents of Canada Post, of what happened in the letter carriers' dispute, where they admit that they intimidated workers despite the fact that the Canada Labour Code clearly spelled out that they cannot force a worker to do the work which is normally done by someone who is on strike. The Canada Labour Code points

that out very clearly, yet Canada Post broke that law, did it on an ongoing basis, and did it deliberately.

It is not just my opinion or the opinion in the internal document. It was also the opinion of the Canada Labour Relations Board when it found against Canada Post, when it found that Canada Post was not obeying the law of the land.

Obviously the failure by the Government to produce the entire document is an attempt by the Government to leave an impression without giving the public the benefit of the entire picture. I think that is propaganda and I think it is deliberate on the Government's part.

The reason I rose to speak was not to comment upon the document. I wanted to comment on the fact we just heard from the Minister responsible for Canada Post. He spoke for over 20 minutes in the House and did not spend one minute on the issue that has caused the strike. He did not mention franchising-out. He did not mention what has happened to women workers who are getting a decent salary working at wickets across the country and will not be working as a result of the position taken by Canada Post.

What will happen to those jobs? They will be taken by other women who will be working part time and for minimum wages. It is ridiculous to have the Minister rise in the House to do all the fear mongering he can but not deal with the issues which have caused the dispute. That was regrettable. I wish the Minister would at least try to defend his position with regard to franchising-out those jobs and what it will do to the salaries of women workers across the land.

In closing I must say that the attitude of the Minister is the cause of the national strike. It is not just a matter of postal history. It is a matter of what is happening at this time. Certainly there have been disputes in the Post Office in the past, but the problem at the present time is the issue of franchising-out, and it is because the Government refuses to negotiate it that we have a strike at this time.

Before sitting down, I must point out that each and every one of the occurrences which he quoted, from the document he pretends not to have, happened after the Government moved to legislate an end to the strike. They did not happen when it was a rotating strike. They happened after the Government forced the hand of union members across the country, and I think he should admit it. The violence out there, the national strike out there, was caused by the Government. It is interesting to note that editorials in *The Edmonton Journal* and the *Winnipeg Free Press* have indicated that this is a strike caused by government.

**Mr. Andre:** Madam Speaker, very quickly, in terms of the accusation of deliberate intimidation during the LCUC strike, the Hon. Member is wrong in his assertions and is wrong in his claims. There was one incident in Halifax involving a truck of mail and a local supervisor. Mail is handled both by CUPW and LCUC workers; sometimes the divisions are not clear. The local manager asked CUPW workers to help unload the truck.