

and the service seems originally to have been provided free of charge.

In both categories the services for which the charges were prescribed exist only for the benefit of persons who specifically ask for them. In neither category had Parliament prescribed a scale of charges or fees."

Votes and Proceedings of the Senate, May 11, 1977, p. 773.

4. In 1976 section 19 (then section 13) was used to provide for a new and higher scale of charges for postal services. The Standing Committee condemned this use of the section in its Third Report;

"2. Your Joint Committee reports that, in its judgment, section 6 of the Domestic First Class Mail Regulations, Items 1 and 2 of Schedule A to the Second Class Mail Regulations, amendment, and the Postmaster General Authority to Prescribe Fees Order infringe criterion 4, constituting unusual and unexpected uses of section 13 of the Financial Administration Act, R.S.C. 1970, C. F-10, in that they invade the traditional rights of Parliament to settle by statute the rates of postage for letters of one pound or less and for Canadian newspapers and periodicals. It is also the view of your Joint Committee that the validity of these impugned provisions is not beyond question. Detailed reasons are given in the attached statement....