

*Government Orders*

that the collective bargaining process between CUPW and Canada Post is functioning properly. There is absolutely no one in this place who could say that in all good conscience.

I want to emphasize that this commission of inquiry would give us as Canadians a sense of security that three years down the road we will not be going through the same process that we are going through now, that there will not be disruptions of service, there will not be allegations from both sides that the whole process of collective bargaining is not working and that we as Canadians can feel comfortable that our postal service is a reliable service.

• (1240)

That is the issue at heart here, but not so much for the workers in a sense because they have a process to follow and they are looking for a good collective agreement, a good working environment, a good wage and good job security for the future. Those are all issues that are paramount in collective bargaining and there is no disputing that. The argument that we are faced with here today concerns what will be resolved when Bill C-40 is implemented and the arbitrator is put in his place and makes a ruling on particular issues.

It is a well known fact that most arbitrators will only go a certain distance and not all the way to support one side or the other. In essence, we have again delayed the inevitable.

I look to the government to ask itself two questions. One, does it really believe that this back-door essential service legislation will rectify the problem in the long term and if not, why not and what is it proposing to do with it? Second, if it is true that both sides cannot seem to come to an agreement, why not put in this kind of inquiry which has been done in certain cases?

When we hear the kinds of comments that come from both parties in the press and on our television screens, we must as MPs wonder just what is happening at Canada Post. We have people coming before us in the informal inquiries the opposition parties have put through saying that they are getting harassed at the work place, that they are getting spied upon, that in essence it is bugging its own employees through the telephone system. These are accusations that in some instances are unfounded but in other instances make us as members of

Parliament ask that particular question that we always ask: "What is going on at Canada Post".

I would ask the government and the Minister of Labour to strongly look at my suggestion of this particular commission of inquiry simply because without it we will be at it again. Perhaps the minister is not too worried about it because it may be another party's problem by that time and we will have to deal with it over here on this side, but he will be over on that side and so he is not overly worried about it. I think it is important for the workers of Canada Post and for all Canadians to know exactly what is going on at Canada Post.

I want to talk about some of the issues that are outstanding. I want to talk a bit about the mandate of Canada Post. This government has suggested to Canada Post that the first thing Canada Post has to do is become more efficient. Through that whole process the government is suggesting that Canada Post has to make a profit.

**Mr. Danis:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr. Nault:** There is nothing wrong with that. The minister asks me that question. I can assure you there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. There is something wrong when the rest of the mandate, which is what Canada Post is also all about, service, seems to be lost in the whole shuffle. There is nothing wrong with being efficient. There is nothing wrong with making a profit. The question is: What do you do with the profit?

That is a good question to ask in this place. The government says: "We are going to reduce the deficit". In essence the government is saying to people out there who get service from Canada Post: "You're going to get a reduced service because we're going to reduce the service in order for us to make a profit". In a country as large as ours, in areas like mine in northern Ontario, you cannot make a profit. It is impossible.

What did it do with the service in northern Ontario? Let me tell the House what it has done. It has cut post offices out completely. It has also reduced service in the sense that we no longer have door-to-door delivery. Now we have what are called supermailboxes.

The minister has to quickly understand that is a reduction in service. In the rural areas, if I am not getting my mail at the door I have to drive 10 miles to pick it up. This is what people are doing. At the end of their road they are picking it up with their own car or in some circumstances having other people pick it up for