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## Nru. 26

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6. 5. 77

### MALTA

#### KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ABBOZZ ta' Liġi mressaq mill-Onorevoli Joseph Cassar, M.P., Ministru tal-Gustizzja, Artijiet, Djar u Affarijiet tal-Parlament f'isem il-Ministru ta' l-Iżvilupp, Enerġija, Port u Telekomunikazzjonijiet, u moqri għall-Ewwel darba fis-Seduta ta' l-4 ta' April, 1977.

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A BILL introduced by the Honourable Joseph Cassar, M.P., Minister of Justice, Lands, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Development, Energy, Port and Telecommunications, and read the First time at the Sitting of the 4th April, 1977.

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ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta.

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AN ACT to amend the Post Office Act, 1975.

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C. MIFSUD

*Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati*

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C. MIFSUD

*Clerk to the House of Representatives*

## ABBOZZ TA' LIĠI

### msejjah

*ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta.*

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej: —

Titolu fil-qosor.

1. Dan l-Att jista' jissejjah l-Att ta' l-1977 li jemenda l-Att dwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta, u għandu jinqara u jiftiehem haġa waħda ma' l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjah "l-Att prinċipali".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 2 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

2. L-artikolu 2 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) l-artikolu għandu jiġi numerat mill-ġdid bhala sub-artikolu (1);

(b) minnufih wara t-tifsira li hemm fih ta' "*Postmaster-General*" għandha tidhol it-tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

" "projbit" użata dwar importazzjoni jew esportazzjoni tinkludi kull restrizzjoni fuq dik l-importazzjoni jew esportazzjoni;";

(ċ) minnufih wara l-artikolu, kif numerat mill-ġdid, għandu jiżdied is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(2) Kull riferenza f'dan l-Att għal dwana, dazju tad-dwana jew liġijiet u regolamenti dwar id-dwana, tinkludi riferenza għal kull projbizzjoni ta', u kull liċenza jew permessi meħtieġa għal, l-importazzjoni jew l-esportazzjoni ta' oġġetti f'Malta jew minn Malta, u għal kull liġijiet u regolamenti dwar hekk."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 3 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

3. L-artikolu 3 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat biż-żieda, fit-tarf tiegħu, tal-kliem "u biex jiġu provduti dawk is-servizzi li, fil-fehma tal-Ministru, ikun xieraq jew siewi li jingħataw mill-Uffiċċju tal-Posta".

4. L-artikolu 11 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 11 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

(a) fis-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "u għall-bdil ta' *money orders* u *postal orders* ma' pajjiżi oħra" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "u għall-bdil ma' pajjiżi oħra ta' *money orders*, *postal orders*, *payment cards* u mezzi bħal dawn li bihom jintbagħtu l-flus"; u

(b) minflok il-paragrafu (f) tas-subartikolu (2) tiegħu għandu jidhol dan li ġej:

"(f) jippreskrivu l-mod kif u l-kondizzjonijiet li taht-hom *money orders*, *postal orders*, *payment cards* u mezzi bħal dawn li bihom jintbagħtu l-flus jistgħu jinħarġu u jit-hallsu, u r-rati ta' kummissjoni li jinġabru fuqhom;"

5. Minflok is-subartikolu (5) ta' l-artikolu 13 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhol is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 13 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

"(5) Oġġetti postali li ma jkollhomx magħhom dik-jarazzjoni ta' dak li jkun fihom u tal-valur kif intqal qabel, jew li jkollhom magħhom dikjarazzjoni falza jew dwar li jkun fihom jew dwar il-valur, jew li jkollhom indikazzjoni falza dwar dak li jkun fihom, jew li jkun fihom oġġetti li l-importazzjoni jew l-esportazzjoni tagħhom f'Malta jew minn Malta tkun projbita, jistgħu jiġu konfiskati, flimkien ma' dak li jkun fihom, mill-*Postmaster-General*."

6. Fil-proviso għas-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 15 ta' l-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "sitt xhur" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "xahrejn".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 15 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

7. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 16 ta' l-Att prinċipali, min-flok il-kliem "l-uffiċjal inkarigat minn dak l-uffiċċju tal-posta għandu jibgħat avviż lid-destinatarju fejn jitolbu jattendi, jew personali jew permezz ta' rappreżentant tiegħu, fi żmien speċifikat, fl-Uffiċċju tal-Posta biex jirċievi l-oġġetti postali" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "uffiċjal ta' l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta għandu, jekk id-destinatarju jkun jirrisjedi f'Malta, jibgħat avviż lid-destinatarju fejn jitolbu jattendi, jew hu nnifsu jew permezz ta' rappreżentant tiegħu, fi żmien speċifikat f'Uffiċċju tal-Posta biex jirċievi l-oġġetti postali, u, jekk id-destina-tarju jirrisjedi barra minn Malta, il-*Postmaster-General* għandu jit-tratta b'dak l-oġġett postali b'dak il-mod li, fiċ-ċirkostanzi, jidhirlu xieraq".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 16 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

8. Minflok l-artikolu 17 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhol l-artikolu li ġej:

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 17 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

"Regola-  
menti  
dwar il-  
kustodja,  
provvista u  
bejgħ ta'  
bolli eċċ.

17. Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regolamenti dwar il-kustodja, provvista, bejgħ u użu ta' bolli u *stationery* postali, magħdud il-bejgħ ta' dawk il-bolli u *stationery* postali għal għanijiet filateliċi u dwar il-ġbir ta' drittijiet xierqa li għandhom x'jaqsmu magħhom, u dwar l-użu ta' makni ta' affrankament li jintużaw biex juru l-ħlas bil-quddiem ta' pustaġġ minflok bolli."

9. L-artikolu 19 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat biz-zieda, minnufih wara s-subartikolu (7) tiegħu, tas-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 19 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

“(8) Il-*Postmaster-General* jista' jirrifjuta li jikkun-sinna xi oġġett postali meta l-post li ghalih ikun indirizzat ma jkun mghammar b'kaxxa ta' l-ittri kif mehtieg bid-disposizzjonijiet ta' qabel ta' dan l-artikolu jew il-kaxxa ta' l-ittri tkun hekk li go fiha ma jkun jista' jitqiegħed oġġett postali minn ftuh fil-kaxxa xieraq għal hekk; u f'kull każ bħal dak il-*Postmaster-General* jista' jibgħat l-oġġett postali lura lil min ikun baġtu, taħt dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li jidhirlu xierqa, jew xort'oħra jagħmel minnu kif jidhirlu xieraq.”.

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 21 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

10. Fil-paragrafu (b) ta' l-artikolu 21 ta' l-Att prinċipali, min-flok il-kliem “f'xi kaxxa ta' l-ittri maħsuba biex fiha jitqiegħdu dawk l-oġġetti” għandhom jidhlu l-kliem “f'xi kaxxa ta' l-ittri ta' l-uffiċċju tal-posta”.

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 22 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

11. Minflok l-artikolu 22 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhol l-artikolu li ġej:

“Rifjut li jintbaġtu l-kunsinna ta' oġġetti postali lil min jibgħathom. 22. (1) Il-*Postmaster-General* jista' jirrifjuta li jibgħat barra minn Malta kull oġġett postali li jkun fih xi haġa li d-dhul tagħha fil-pajjiż tad-destinazzjoni jkun ipprojbit; u jekk xi oġġett postali bħal dak jinstab waqt it-traġitt, il-*Postmaster-General* jista' jibgħatu lura lil min ikun baġtu taħt dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li jidhirlu xierqa jew xort'oħra jagħmel minnu kif jidhirlu xieraq.

(2) Il-*Postmaster-General* jista' wkoll jibgħat lura lil min ikun baġtu, taħt dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li jidhirlu xierqa, jew xort'oħra jagħmel minnu kif jidhirlu xieraq, kull oġġett postali li jkun fit-traġitt bil-posta kull meta jkun sodisfatt li dak l-oġġett postali jkun ġie mpustat bi żball jew ikun ġie impustat b'kontenut hażin jew nieqes.”.

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 26 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

12. Minflok l-artikolu 26 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhol l-artikolu li ġej:

“Traġitt bil-posta ta' ċerti oġġetti. 26. (1) It-traġitt bil-posta ta' kull oġġett li għalih japplika dan l-artikolu hu ipprojbit.

(2) Dan l-artikolu japplika għal —

(a) kull oġġett postali li jkun fih xi sustanza esploziva, fjamabbli, perikoluża, maħmuġa, li tagħmel deni jew li tagħmel hsara; jew

(b) kull oġġett postali li jkun fih xi strument bil-ponta jew xi oġġett jew haġa bħal dik li tista' tqiegħed fil-perikolu xi persuna jew li tista' ttebba' jew tagħmel hsara lil xi oġġett postali ieħor waqt it-traġitt bil-posta; jew

(ċ) kull oġġett postali li jkun sedizzjuż hekk kif imfisser f'xi liġi dwar is-sedizzjoni; jew

(d) kull oġġett postali ta' liema xorta jew forma li tkun li b'xi mod iħedded, ikun offensiv jew libelluż; jew

(e) kull oġġett postali ta' liema xorta jew forma li tkun li jkun pornografiku jew oxxen skond regolamenti magħmula taħt l-artikolu 222A tal-Kodiċi Kriminali; jew

(f) kull oġġett postali li jkun fih xi ħolqien haġ barra minn ħolqien aċċettat mill-*Postmaster-General* bhala li jista' jintbagħat bil-posta; jew

(g) kull oġġett postali li jkun fih xi proposta, ċirkolari jew biljett dwar lotterija barra minn lotterija magħmula jew permessa mill-Gvern.

(3) Minkejja d-disposizzjonijiet tal-paragrafu (g) tas-subartikolu (2) ta' dan l-artikolu dwar lotterija magħmula jew permessi mill-Gvern, il-*Postmaster-General* jista' jirrifjuta li jibgħat barra minn Malta kull oġġett postali dwar kull lotterija kif intqal qabel jekk dak l-oġġett ma jkunx jaqbel ma' l-istruzzjonijiet dwaru mahruġa minn awtorità kompetenti u mgħarrfin lill-*Postmaster-General*; u f'kull każ bħal dak hu jista' jibgħatu lura lil min ikun bagħtu jew xort'ohra jagħmel minnu kif jidhirlu xieraq taħt dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li jidhirlu xierqa.

(4) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu "lotterija" tinkludi kull skema għat-tqassim ta' premjijiet li taħtha min jirċevihom jew in-numru jew il-valur tal-premjijiet jiddependu fuq grajja futura mhix ċerta jew fuq għaqda ta' grajjiet bħal dawk."

13. L-artikolu 27 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 27 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

(a) l-artikolu għandu jiġi numerat mill-ġdid bhala subartikolu (1); u

(b) minnufih wara għandu jizdied is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(2) Għall-għanijiet ta' dan l-artikolu "ittra magħluqa" tfisser oġġett postali li jkun involopp magħluq li fih ikun hemm biss korrispondenza u li l-qisien, il-piż, id-dehra u għamla ohra tiegħu raġonevolment juru li ma fih xejn iktar."

14. Fl-artikolu 50 ta' l-Att prinċipali, minnufih wara l-kliem "tiftaħ xkora tal-valiġġa waqt it-traġitt tagħha bil-posta," għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jew tonqos li tibgħat lura lill-*Postmaster-General* oġġett postali kif meħtieġ bil-proviso għall-paragrafu (d) ta' l-artikolu 21 ta' dan l-Att,".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 50 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

15. Minflok l-artikolu 55 ta' l-Att prinċipali, għandu jidhol l-artikolu li ġej:

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 55 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

"Segretezza. 55. (1) Ebda uffiċjal ta' l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta ma jista' jagħti xi tagħrif dwar oġġetti postali li jgħaddu mill-posta mingħajr il-kunsens ta' min jibgħathom jew tal-persuna li lilha jkunu ġew indirizzati, jew jikkaxxi xi tagħrif li jkun setgħa kiseb minhabba l-kariga tiegħu, hliet għall-fini tal-qadi ta' dmirijietu fl-Uffiċċju tal-Posta, jew għal xi għemil dwar xi reat kontra xi liġi, jew f'dawk il-każijiet l-oħra li bil-liġi hu jista' jiġi awtorizzat jew ikun meħtieġ li jikkaxxi tagħrif bħal dak.

(2) Id-disposizzjonijiet tas-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu jkomplu japplikaw għal kull persuna li f'xi żmien kienet uffiċjal ta' l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta wkoll wara li ma tkunx baqgħet uffiċjal bħal dak dwar kull tagħrif li tkun kisbet fil-waqt li hekk kienet uffiċjal."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 56 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

16. Fis-subartikolu (2) ta' l-artikolu 56 ta' l-Att prinċipali, min-flok il-kliem "Kull persuna li tikser id-disposizzjonijiet" ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem "Kull persuna li tikser xi wahda mid-disposizzjonijiet".

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab ma' l-Att prinċipali.

17. Minflok l-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab ma' l-Att prinċipali ghandha tidhol l-Iskeda li ġejja:

"L-EWWEL SKEDA

Artikolu 9

**Dikjarazzjoni**

Jiena, ....., hawn taht iffirmat niddikjara bil-ġurament/solemnement li:

(a) Volontarjament ma niftaħx u ma ndewwimx, ma nġieghelx u ma nhallix lil min jiftaħ jew idewwem, kontrarjament ghad-dmirijiet tiegħi, xi oġġett postali li jiġi f'idejja jew li jkun taht il-kustodja tiegħi minhabba l-kariga tiegħi fl-Uffiċċju tal-Posta, hlief bil-kunsens ta' min jibghatu jew tal-persuna li lilha dan ikun indirizzat, jew hlief f'dawk il-każijiet li fihom inkun hekk awtorizzat jew ordnat skond il-liġi;

(b) Illi ma niehux b'qerq u lanqas ma nisraq xi oġġett postali;

(c) Illi f'ebda żmien, sew jekk ghadni jew m'ghadnix fis-servizz postali, ma nagħti xi tagħrif dwar oġġetti postali li jghaddu mill-posta, jew m'ksubin minni minhabba l-impieg tiegħi, hlief meta nkun hekk awtorizzat jew meh-tieg skond il-liġi.

Din id-dikjarazzjoni ġiet mahlufa /ġiet }  
dikjarata sollemnement quddiem ..... }  
fi ..... ta' ..... 19... } .....

**Għanijiet u Ragunijiet**

L-Għan ewlieni ta' dan l-Abbozz huwa li jagħlaq aħjar disposizzjonijiet ta' l-Att dwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta biex ma jhallix is-servizz tal-posta, u s-segretezza li jipprovdi milli jiġu wżati bħala mezz ta' evażjoni ta' dawk il-htigiet li llum ma ghandhomx l-istess protezzjoni li ghandhom il-liġijiet dwar id-dwana, is-sedizzjoni u l-pornografija.

L-Abbozz ghandu wkoll l-għan li jagħti s-setgħa lil-Uffiċċju tal-Posta li jaqdi funzjonijiet li m'humiex sewwa sew ta' natura postali iżda li jistgħu jsiru minn dak l-uffiċċju b'avantaġġ.

**A BILL****entitled***AN ACT to amend the Post Office Act, 1975.*

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Post Office (Amendment) Act, 1977, and shall be read and construed as one with the Post Office Act, 1975, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act". Short title.

2. Section 2 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment  
of section 2  
of the  
principal Act.

(a) the section shall be re-numbered as subsection (1);

(b) immediately after the definition therein of "Postmaster-General" there shall be inserted the following new definition:

"prohibited" used in relation to importation or exportation includes any restriction on such importation or exportation;"

(c) immediately after the section, as re-numbered, there shall be added the following new subsection:

"(2) Any reference in this Act to customs, customs duty or laws and regulations relating to customs, shall include a reference to any prohibition of, and any licence or permits required for, the importation or exportation of goods into or out of Malta, and to any laws and regulations relating thereto."

3. Section 3 of the principal Act shall be amended by the addition, at the end thereof, of the words "and for the provision of such services as, in the opinion of the Minister, may properly or usefully be given by Post Offices". Amendment  
of section 3  
of the  
principal Act.

Amendment  
of section 11  
of the  
principal Act.

4. Section 11 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in subsection (1) thereof, for the words "and for the interchange of money orders or postal orders with other countries" there shall be substituted the words "and for the interchange with other countries of money orders, postal orders, payment cards and similar instruments for the remittance of money"; and

(b) for paragraph (f) of subsection (2) thereof there shall be substituted the following:

"(f) prescribe the manner and conditions in and subject to which money orders, postal orders, payment cards and similar instruments for the remittance of money may be issued and paid, and the rates of commission leviable thereon;"

Amendment  
of section 13  
of the  
principal Act.

5. For subsection (5) of section 13 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following subsection:

"(5) Postal articles unaccompanied by a declaration of contents and value as aforesaid, or accompanied by a false declaration of either contents or value, or bearing a false indication of contents, or containing goods the importation or exportation whereof into or out of Malta is prohibited, may be confiscated, together with their contents, by the Postmaster-General."

Amendment  
of section 15  
of the  
principal Act.

6. In the proviso to subsection (3) of section 15 of the principal Act, for the words "six months" there shall be substituted the words "two months".

Amendment  
of section 16  
of the  
principal Act.

7. In subsection (1) of section 16 of the principal Act, for the words "the officer in charge of such post office shall send a notice to the addressee inviting him to attend, either in person or by agent, within a specified time, at the Post Office to receive delivery of the postal article" there shall be substituted the words "an officer of the Post Office shall, if the addressee resides in Malta, send a notice to the addressee inviting him to attend, either in person or by means of an agent, within a specified time at a Post Office to receive delivery of the postal article, and, if the addressee resides abroad, the Postmaster-General shall deal with the postal article in such manner as he may deem, in the circumstances, appropriate".

Substitution  
of section 17  
of the  
principal Act.

8. For section 17 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following section:

"Regulations for the custody, supply and sale of postage stamps etc. 17. The Minister may make regulations to provide for the custody, supply, sale and use of postage stamps and postal stationery, including the sale of such stamps and postal stationery for philatelic purposes and the levying of appropriate charges connected therewith, and for the use of franking machines for the purpose of denoting the prepaying of postage in place of postage stamps."

Amendment  
of section 19  
of the  
principal Act.

9. Section 19 of the principal Act shall be amended by the addition, immediately after subsection (7) thereof, of the following new subsection:

"(8) The Postmaster-General may refuse to deliver any postal article where the premises to which it is addressed is not provided with a letter-box as required by the foregoing pro-

visions of this section or the letter-box provided is such that the postal article cannot be placed in the box through an opening in the box adequate for the purpose; and in any such case the Postmaster-General may return the postal article to the sender, under such conditions as he may deem fit, or otherwise deal with it as he may deem appropriate.”.

10. In paragraph (b) of section 21 of the principal Act, for the words “in any receiving box intended for the placing of such article therein” there shall be substituted the words “in any post office letter-box”.

Amendment  
of section 21  
of the  
principal Act.

11. For section 22 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following section:

Substitution  
of section 22  
of the  
principal Act.

“Refusal of  
transmission  
and the  
delivery of  
postal  
articles  
to sender

22. (1) The Postmaster-General may refuse to transmit abroad any postal article containing anything which is prohibited entry by the country of destination; and if any such postal article is detected in the course of transmission, the Postmaster-General may return it to the sender under such conditions as he may deem fit or otherwise deal with it as he may deem appropriate.

(2) The Postmaster-General may also return to the sender, under such conditions as he may deem fit, or otherwise deal with as he may deem appropriate, any postal article which is in course of transmission by post whenever he is satisfied that such postal article has been posted by mistake or has been posted with wrong or deficient contents.”.

12. For section 26 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following section:

Substitution  
of section 26  
of the  
principal Act.

“Transmission by  
post of  
certain  
articles.

26. (1) The transmission by post of any article to which this section applies is prohibited.

(2) This section applies to:

(a) any postal article containing any explosive, inflammable, dangerous, dirty, noxious or deleterious substance; or

(b) any postal article containing any sharp instrument or any such other article or thing which might expose to injury any person or which might soil or damage any other postal article in course of transmission by post; or

(c) any postal article which is seditious within the meaning of any enactment relating to sedition; or

(d) any postal article of any kind whatsoever or form which is in any way threatening, offensive or libellous; or

(e) any postal article of any kind or form whatsoever which is pornographic or obscene in accordance with regulations made under section 222A of the Criminal Code; or

(f) any postal article containing any living creature other than a creature accepted by the Postmaster-General as transmissible by post; or

(g) any postal article containing any proposal, circular or ticket relating to lotteries other than lotteries set up or permitted by the Government.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of this section relating to lotteries set up or permitted by the Government, the Postmaster-General may refuse to transmit abroad any postal article relating to any such lottery as aforesaid if such article does not conform with instructions relating thereto issued by a competent authority and communicated to the Postmaster-General; and in any such case he may return it to the sender or otherwise deal with it as he may deem appropriate under such conditions as he may deem fit.

(4) For the purposes of this section "lottery" includes any scheme for distributing prizes under which the recipients or the number or the value of the prizes depend on a future uncertain event or a combination of such events."

Amendment of section 27 of the principal Act.

13. Section 27 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

- (a) the section shall be re-numbered as subsection (1); and
- (b) immediately thereafter there shall be added the following new subsection:

"(2) For the purposes of this section "a closed letter" means a postal article consisting of a sealed envelope which contains solely correspondence and of which the dimensions, weight, appearance and other features reasonably indicate that it contains nothing else."

Amendment of section 50 of the principal Act.

14. In section 50 of the principal Act, immediately after the words "opens a mail bag in the course of transmission by post," there shall be inserted the words "or fails to return a postal article to the Postmaster-General as required by the proviso to paragraph (d) of section 21 of this Act,".

Substitution of section 55 of the principal Act.

15. For section 55 of the principal Act, there shall be substituted the following section:

"Secrecy. 55. (1) It shall not be lawful for any officer of the Post Office to disclose any information respecting postal articles passing through the post without the consent of the sender or of the person to whom they are directed, or to disclose any information he may have obtained by reason of his office, except for the purpose of performing his duties in the Post Office, or of any action in respect of any offence against any law, or in such other cases as he may be authorised or required by law to disclose such information.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall continue to apply to any person who at any time was an officer of the Post Office even after he has ceased to be such an officer in respect of any information obtained by him while he was such an officer."

16. In subsection (2) of section 56 of the principal Act, for the words "Any person contravening the provisions" there shall be substituted the words "Any person contravening any of the provisions".

Amendment of section 56 of the principal Act.

17. For the First Schedule of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following Schedule:

Substitution of the First Schedule to the principal Act.

"FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 9

Declaration

I, ....., the undersigned declare on oath/solemnly affirm that:

(a) I will not willingly open or delay or cause or suffer to be opened or delayed, contrary to my duty, any postal article which shall come into my hands or custody by reason of my employment in the Post Office, except with the consent of the sender or of the person to whom the same shall be directed, or except in those cases in which I shall be so authorized or directed according to law;

(b) I will not in any way embezzle or steal any postal article;

(c) I will not at any time, and whether I am or not in the postal service, furnish any information respecting postal articles passing through the post, or obtained by me by reason of my employment, except when so authorized or required according to law.

This declaration was sworn solemnly affirmed before me at..... on the ..... day of ..... 19....

Objects and Reasons

The main Object of the Bill is to tighten up various provisions of the Post Office Act to prevent the postal service, and the confidentiality which it provides, from being used as a cover for the evasion of those laws which do not, at present, enjoy the same protection as is enjoyed by those relating to customs, sedition and pornography.

The Bill also proposes to enable the Post Office to perform functions which are not strictly of a postal nature but could probably be performed by it.