

Civil Service Act

play their role in this house, if minorities and bilingualism are to be respected here.

Mr. Martineau: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I have a right to rise on a point of order. I have just one word to say—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, but the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey) has the floor.

Mr. Martineau: —in reply to certain remarks the hon. member has just made—

(Text):

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Order. Is the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister raising a point of order?

Mr. Martineau: Yes, I am raising a point of order.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Then he should address his point of order to the Chair and not to the hon. member who has just taken his seat.

Mr. Martineau: I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I was addressing the Chair. I referred to the hon. member in the third person; therefore I was addressing the Chair. I am sorry if the chairman did not understand because I happened to be speaking in French, but I was addressing the Chair. The point I am trying to make is that the hon. member stated that this bill comes under the administrative duties of the Secretary of State. My point of order is this—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Order. That seems to me to be a point of debate and the hon. member can make that point in due course. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

Mr. Martineau: Respectfully, Mr. Chairman, it is not a point of order. It is simply a point of fact that when the Civil Service Act was first introduced in 1918 it was introduced by the acting minister of finance.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): The parliamentary secretary can make his point in debate in the normal way, but it is not a point of order as he himself has said.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Chairman, after listening to the remarks of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate I too should like to pay a tribute at this time to what I think and what I am sure all hon. members of this house will agree is a civil service of which we can be most proud. I am especially proud, when I think that Canada has not yet reached its hundredth birthday, that over the years since 1867, the year of confederation, we have developed such a fine civil service. I am sure I am not the only member of the house who

is most proud of that fact. I am happy to see the parliamentary secretary in the house today taking a great interest in these proceedings. No member has done more than the hon. member for Carleton to advance the real interests of our fine civil service in the House of Commons.

Mr. Pickersgill: Except the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.

Mr. Grafftey: I am sure my very good friend from Bonavista-Twillingate will be happy to hear that I intend to be very brief, but in my brief remarks I should simply like to say that since confederation Canada, as we all know, has gone through many so-called emergency periods which included two world wars. In Canada, as in so many other countries in the western world, simply by reason of the natural force of sociological, economic and political events, our civil service became bigger and bigger. I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members the difference between the treatment of the civil service by the present administration in the years 1957 and 1958 and the treatment accorded to the civil service in 1935. I will deal with that very briefly.

Mr. Pickersgill: 1931 to 1935?

Mr. Grafftey: I should simply like to say this. I am not pretending to speak for my party at the present time.

Mr. Pickersgill: Wise man.

Mr. Grafftey: I have not consulted other members. I have not been so presumptuous, but I wish to advance my own personal opinion on the floor of the house this afternoon. I know that members on both sides of the house will have different opinions on this matter. Toward the end of the 22-year rule of the last administration I think a very bad thing happened, and certainly in my own mind I have established a general rule.

Along the opposition front bench today the only real House of Commons man, to my way of thinking, is the hon. member for Essex East. What happened toward the end of that 22 years of Liberal rule which I do not think aided the morale or spirit of a truly independent civil service? We saw the Leader of the Opposition come from the top hierarchy of external affairs right into the active arena of politics. We saw the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, who served in the office of the prime minister, do the same thing. Civil servants in that office are meant to be steadfast and independent, if any should be, ready at all times to serve all prime ministers of all political parties. Where did he go? He went right from that high position into the active political arena.