

Marine and Fisheries as to the line of policy he will follow in spending the money. This House has a right to know the facts; and I respectfully submit that it is the duty of the government to state those facts at the earliest possible moment. The Prime Minister, in giving the explanation of ministerial changes, said that it was not so important to give this information now as at one time in the past, because, in these modern days these changes had not the importance they had at one time, for in these days of publicity there was nothing he could tell the House of which the House was not already informed through the press. That is exactly why we are asking these questions—because an intimation was given through the press some time ago, and notably in the province of Quebec during an election campaign by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that certain important changes would take place whereby a great deal of the work now being done by the Public Works Department would be transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, so that he would have the expending of large amounts of money and would be able to inaugurate a policy of his own. I would like to inquire, Mr. Chairman, what so greatly amuses the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman). Has he no interest in the business of this House? When will he be able to give information as to the changes to take place in the department he is going to come into?

Mr. HYMAN. I do not know why the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) should draw attention to me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SPROULE. Simply because I saw the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hyman) doing that for which he often, as Chairman, calls members to order in the Railway Committee.

Mr. HYMAN. For smiling?

Mr. SPROULE. No, for interrupting a member of this House when he was speaking. I was interrupted—

Mr. HYMAN. I beg to say, Mr. Chairman, that I did not interrupt the hon. gentleman in any possible way.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. SPROULE. I have nothing to take back. I want to say what I intended to say when I had only part of the sentence out. I was interrupted by an outburst of mirth that could be nothing but an interruption—there was no sense in it.

Mr. HYMAN. I inform the hon. gentleman that it is the leader of the opposition who is smiling.

Mr. SPROULE. A smile carries with it no noise, but the noisy laughter from the other side—if I were to quote Scripture, I might characterize it, but I will refrain from doing so. I say that we are not only within

Mr. SPROULE.

our rights, but we would be doing less than our duty, if we do not ask for this information and demand an explanation from the government. What are going to be the departmental changes they are going to make? What is going to be the policy of the government with respect to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, which has been charged with the expenditure of the money we are asked to vote to-night? We have a right to know that before we allow a dollar of this money to be voted. There is no justifiable reason for making any reflections upon the opposition when they are only doing their duty in this House to the people who sent them here. I think the government would greatly facilitate progress of business if they availed themselves of the earliest opportunity to give that information to the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think at this stage it would be in order to read from what I may call an official report of the speech made in Montreal by the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, on the occasion to which I have alluded just now. The speech was not made during the election campaign, it is true, but a little while previously, before a Liberal club in the east end of Montreal. This is a verbatim report of the speech which he made.

An hon. MEMBER. Are you going to read it all?

Mr. CASGRAIN. I will if the hon. gentlemen opposite wish to hear it.

Mr. DOUGLAS. If it is a good speech read it all.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It was a good speech, well reported. I will begin by reading it in French. I call the attention to this of my hon. friend from Essex (Mr. Cowan), who has a great many French Canadians in his constituency, and he may understand himself the version which I am going to read.

An hon. MEMBER. From what paper are you reading?

Mr. CASGRAIN. From 'La Patrie.' Have hon. gentlemen any objection to 'La Patrie' now? Do they think a verbatim report of a speech in 'La Patrie' is not a correct report? I may say that the same reports were published in the 'La Presse,' which I do not think hon. gentlemen will repudiate. Here is what the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said on that important occasion, when he was giving what he called the policy of the government:

"REPARTITION DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS."

Mais on vous dira : le département des Travaux publics est un département qui dépense des millions, qui a un patronage énorme et, par le fait qu'on va l'enlever à la province de Québec, on va enlever tout ce patronage-là à la province de Québec. Messieurs, soyons raisonnables, examinons la situation telle qu'elle est. Les travaux publics, à l'heure qu'il est,