

Government Organization

Canada will have plenty of responsibility without having partial responsibility for law enforcement.

I give warning to any member of the government who happens to be within ear-shot of my voice, that at the committee stage of this bill we propose to bring in amendments which, if accepted by the house, will remove these anomalies and dangerous changes which, instead of adding to more effective enforcement of the law, may very well have the effect of frustrating this enforcement in these very important fields. I hope that when that time arrives the house will consider seriously whether this bill requires amendment in this regard.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes this evening to discuss Bill C-178 introduced by the right hon. Prime Minister.

During the debate which followed the introduction of the bill, we heard a lot about the reorganization of the Canadian government and related or incidental questions. However, the bill deals with organization and not reorganization. I cannot imagine how something which is not organized could be reorganized.

I think today is the 82nd day of this session and if we consider the work performed and the legislation passed in those 82 days, we realize that not much has been done. Therefore, I believe that if we have not made more progress in those 82 days, it is precisely because of a lack of organization on the part of the government.

I think that the Prime Minister is justified in introducing a bill on the organization of the Canadian government and on related or incidental matters.

Mr. Speaker, as mentioned by previous speakers, we must hope that this bill will give satisfactory results.

I think, as previous speakers, that amendments will be moved when we will consider the bill section after section.

There is one thing I should like to mention to the house; I have noticed it myself for a number of years and many people with whom I have talked about it, have mentioned it also; at a given time, when those in charge of departments seem to become acquainted with their department, and take in hand its operation, what do we see? The Prime Minister announces a cabinet shuffle.

[Mr. Brewin.]

• (9:20 p.m.)

What does this mean, what does the Prime Minister try to prove? I understand that, at a certain time, when the incumbent of a department does not have the necessary qualifications to be in charge of some departments, the right hon. Prime Minister then tries to find for him a department where he could test his skill.

But, in my opinion, the ministers in charge of departments are moved too often for them to achieve the expected results. This is why, in my opinion, when the Prime Minister selects the minister for various departments, he should study more closely the qualifications of the candidates for those positions, so that they might stay as long as possible in charge of those various departments, and show there a maximum of efficiency.

I am willing to admit that when the government changes, when the voters decide to change government, well, then, those ministers must change.

Now, then, Mr. Speaker, what I want to point out in that connection is that we should find better men, more competent men, to take over as ministers, and especially in the new departments we are planning.

One department is of special interest to me, that of Mines and Technical Surveys. I hope the present minister (Mr. Pepin) will head the new department of energy, mines and resources.

I wish to point out to him that among the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys publications, few are to be found in French. I feel that the French Canadian people are really not favoured in that respect.

Mr. Caouette: That is because the hon. member is English.

Mr. Laprise: I do not blame the hon. minister. A remark has just been made, but please note, Mr. Speaker, that I do not blame the present minister, for he has been in charge of that department for a short while. But I must say that nothing has been done to date to improve publications on Canadian mining. I therefore hope that the hon. minister will take my remarks into consideration and act on them, seeing the present Liberal government claims continually that it wants to do justice to the two main races in Canada today.

Now, in connection with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, I would like to draw the attention of the minister on