

*Establishment of New Departments*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I was not present to hear the Prime Minister, but if the hon. gentleman will look at the resolution he will see it says, "to establish the office of President of the Treasury Board." I do know it is contemplated that that office would be held, not by the Prime Minister, or normally by the President of the Privy Council, but by another minister. In so far as that part of the hon. gentleman's argument is concerned, I thought it well to make that point clear at once.

**Mr. Hamilton:** I want to thank the minister for making that clear, because I did write down what the Prime Minister said about it and it bolstered the strength of the argument I was making last Thursday vis-à-vis the National Research Council. I think the minister will agree that, periodically, scientific research has been pushed forward for a few years, and then interest is lost in it. Later it is pushed forward again. There is an up and down in the pushing behind it, and one of the reasons is that the Prime Minister's office is so busy that it cannot push the idea forward dynamically. When I heard the Prime Minister say today that Treasury Board would be under the Privy Council, I was quite surprised.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think if the Prime Minister did say that it was a slip, and he would want to have it corrected. If one reads the resolution, that is not the intention.

**Mr. Walker:** Would the hon. member permit another question? His were very interesting and constructive suggestions, but I just want to be clear. Was he the spokesman for his party tonight? Do these suggestions have the support of the rest of his party?

**Mr. Hamilton:** Mr. Chairman, if ever I said they had the support of my party my remarks would be in great doubt; but I can say this, that I have discussed this matter with a good many of my colleagues who served in the cabinet, and they agree that these suggestions have great merit. They are not party policy, however, or anything like that.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam and other speakers from this party have already made it clear that in general this party approves the resolution and the proposed reorganization it contemplates. But I must admit personally that I rather tend to underemphasize and underestimate the importance of structure. My sentiments could be summed up in the

proposition that the shape of the bottle is of less importance than the contents.

Notwithstanding that, and although I feel that the quality and energy of a minister and his colleagues are of much more importance than the precise definition of their duties and responsibilities, I recognize I may be wrong and the formal division of responsibilities is perhaps important in facilitating or frustrating the efforts of a minister and the efficiency of his department.

Tonight I would like to discuss the proposed changes affecting the Department of Justice and to express my fears about some aspects of the proposed changes.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Chairman, there can be very little argument but that the minister of justice in past years has been greatly overburdened and that some adjustment was overdue. I think we urgently need a new quality, new energy and power in this most important department. There are however some other key matters which face a minister of justice. I should like to suggest that the inroads and the threat of organized crime on this continent present a very real challenge to governments, and that this challenge cannot be met without a new concept of co-operation among the different levels of government, new co-ordination among the different governments and new training of those who are required to deal with this problem.

I do not have his words in front of me, but recently the President of the United States declared a war on organized crime as being necessary in that country. I think we have seen enough evidence of the reality of this problem to realize that it is important here. I suggest that the Department of Justice and the police force which it directs are in key positions in any war on, or in any effort to combat, the inroads of organized crime.

We must recognize that organized crime is a serious phenomenon and not just something which was thought up. It has tremendous resources; it has scientific skills; it has a concentrated international organization; it has the ability to hire skilled lawyers and even to corrupt police and other officials. In order to combat this menace the law enforcement officers must be efficient, well trained, and must be able to co-ordinate their operations across political boundaries.

I am disturbed that in the proposed reorganization of the Solicitor General's department as separate from the Department of