



Bulletin

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS RESHAPED

The Prime Minister has announced details of a reorganization of certain ministerial and departmental responsibilities, to provide an improved structure that could deal more effectively with new problems and to permit each minister and his department to concentrate on the areas of primary concern to them, unhampered by matters better handled by some other agency.

Following Parliamentary approval, five new departments will emerge: a Department responsible for regional development; a Department of Communications; a Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce; a Department of Supply and Services; and a Department of Fisheries and Forestry. Some existing departments will be substantially reshaped, others will be amalgamated, and certain activities now carried on by some departments will be concentrated in one department. Some changes are designed to meet new problems and to handle continuing problems more effectively; some, in addition, will produce substantial administrative savings.

A number of task forces, chaired by Treasury Board officers, will be set up to proceed with the implementation of these changes. Each task force will comprise a representative of the Public Service Commission, the Department of Public Works, the departments affected and the Privy Council Office. The task forces will report to a committee composed of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet, the Secretary of the Treasury Board, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the appropriate Deputy Minister.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the changes being made are designed to deal with the problems as they exist or can be reasonably foreseen. The process should not and cannot, however, be con-

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sidered comprehensive and final. There must be a continuing examination with a view to making changes as the necessity arises.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The problem of regional economic disparities has been customarily dealt with through the functional departments. Efforts had been made recently to concentrate some of this activity in the Department of Forestry and Rural Development. Much more attention must now be directed toward the development of areas, both rural and urban, that have advanced more slowly than the rest of the country. To accomplish this, a department will be established that will be primarily responsible for the Government's activities in this area and capable of concentrating its attention on this problem. The Department of Forestry and Rural Development will be reorganized, and the resulting new department will be responsible for regional development.

The Rural Development Branch of the existing department administers the ARDA and FRED programmes and it will survive in the new department. The Forestry Branch will be transferred to the Department of Fisheries, which will become the Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, which has played an increasingly important role in the development of the Western region, through its contribution to the diversification of the economic base, will be transferred to the new department. Responsibility for the Canadian Livestock Feed Board, which is inconsistent with the new role of the