

Government Organization

member's later reference to the business of what I believe he called invitational tendering—can be listed and will be advised when there is business available or when there is a tender to be called.

The difficulty with advertising, that is in the normal sense of making it known through public advertisement, is that there are literally tens of thousands of different items which we are asking for at one point or another, and the ability to advertise these nationally on a continuing basis would be an extremely expensive one and not very practical.

I believe that if the hon. member checks with most companies that do business with the Government of Canada he will find that there is quite general agreement that the present policy and the present system are the most appropriate. If he has specific evidence to the contrary, or knows of some company that does not feel this arrangement is appropriate, I will be delighted to look into the matter for him; but to try to advertise all the needs, all the things needed all across the country would be an impossible task.

I believe I have covered all of the points, Mr. Chairman, and I can only say in closing that I have as great hopes for the department as hon. members seem to have. I think we can do an effective job. I am sure, too, that the savings will be evident in the first report of the department a year from now after it is established.

I do not want to take my seat without talking about the matter raised by the hon. member for Lotbinière. I am very conscious of the matter that the hon. gentleman raised. I can assure him in the first instance that the Comptroller of the Treasury portion, which will now become the services side of this department, has a very large bilingual capacity. A great many of the employees of that department are bilingual, though not as many perhaps as we would like. Certainly, on the supply side, we are doing precisely what the hon. member has suggested, and that is that we have now in the department, and will have in the new department a language or bilingual adviser. We are working towards the objectives he has outlined.

Of course the Queen's Printer, the Printing Bureau, has a very large percentage of its work force which is bilingual. So, as with all government departments, it is my intention to advance with all reasonable haste the objectives which the hon. member outlined and which I share fully. I believe I have covered

all the points, Mr. Chairman, and I am very grateful to hon. members for the kind words they spoke during the discussion today.

Mr. Burton: Before he resumes his seat, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes.

Mr. Burton: Would the minister care to indicate if the government is studying or has any intention of using the Canadian Commercial Corporation, or some other means or mechanism, to fulfil the functions suggested in the Watkins report with respect to a state trading agency?

Mr. Jamieson: I can only say in answer to the hon. member that we are studying this. It is part of the examination of the whole pattern. Whether the Canadian Commercial Corporation is the proper or appropriate instrument I could not say in any dogmatic way at the moment, but it has possibilities and we are looking into it.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 42 to 45 inclusive, agreed to.

On clause 46—*Other duties.*

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have just one little question for the minister on this clause. I notice that under this clause the Department of Supply and Services is to provide certain services which I now gather are being provided by the Central Pay Office and also certain services in relation to employees' benefit plans and superannuation or pension plans. I should like to know whether this means that the Superannuation Branch will be transferred to the minister. You know, he seems so humane I hope it is true.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, I regret to advise the hon. member that unfortunately, the great generous person that I am, I am not going to have the opportunity to do what he suggests. This department will perform certain administrative duties in respect of keeping accounts with regard to superannuation, pay and the like, such as issuing cheques which may not be as big cheques as my hon. friend would like. However, he will have to argue with somebody else about how big they should be.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Perhaps the minister would exercise his humanity in the cabinet on this issue.

Clause agreed to.