

Departmental Conflicts

Inter-Departmental Relations

The creation of a new Government Department almost inevitably results in some difficulties of adjustment and reallocation of various functions. Activities which had formerly been performed by the previous Departments were in part transferred to the new one; and until these reallocations took regular form, there were bound to be some overlapping and some confusion. There was a switch in the channel of correspondence for distribution; there were two partly related Under-Secretaries instead of one. The older Departments had to get used to the new apparatus, and sometimes misdirected their approaches. Inter-related Departments had to accommodate themselves to the integration of a new supplementary Department. In many points of detail the instructions or regulations were not sufficiently specific.

It is remarkable, however, that in these new circumstances, the work quickly fell into the new pattern and the inter-departmental relationships adjusted themselves, - with the exception for some years, of the Secretary of State's Department.

Governor General's Office

Reference has been made to the misgivings of the Governor General over the questionable term "conduct of official correspondence" by the new Department, which he held might imply the usurpation of his constitutional prerogatives. This contretemps, however, passed over.