

*Government Organization*

the definition or location of a region? Also, could he explain precisely the form of aid he proposes to make available to certain industries?

The bill, which is now before us eight months after the election was held, is only a skeleton. I hope the minister will put flesh on the bones.

Finally, may I make this point. It will not offend the Minister of Finance who is not present in the house. To be effective, any program must have available to it financial resources. It is one thing to pass a bill and create agencies to administer a program, but it quite another to make a program work. If the minister is to do the job I know he hopes to do, he will need massive financial backing from the government. The entire effort must be massive if we are to overcome regional disparities in this country. The present measure ought to be regarded only as part of the war against poverty in Canada. I hope that very soon the government will continue by other means its attack on the prevalent problem of poverty in this country.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I propose to deal with the principles underlying this bill. Several of my colleagues will deal with the various parts of the bill as they are brought forward in committee of the whole.

This measure for government reorganization deals solely with the mechanics of administration. It should be remembered that government departments are established to fulfil certain obligations and responsibilities in response to agreed government objectives and goals. Government departments are tools, and the effectiveness of those tools depends entirely on the purposes for which they are used.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that unfortunately we have had no clear statement today from the Prime Minister either on what our national objectives are or on what priorities have been established to attain those objectives. There is little advantage in talking about government reorganization unless we know what it is the government is seeking to accomplish. Before someone starts to design a vehicle he wants to know the kind of terrain over which it will be expected to travel, whether it will be devised for carrying passengers or heavy loads and what speeds are considered desirable. The kind of vehicle that one designs is therefore determined by the purpose the designer has in mind.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

• (3:50 p.m.)

What we need in Canada is departmental reorganization with a purpose. We need to know what the government's goals and objectives are, what priorities have been established, what allocations of human, material and financial resources have been determined. It is only when we know these facts that we are in a position to assess whether this reorganization is adequate. In the opinion of the members of this party reorganization is an exercise in futility unless there is government planning at the centre. Someone has said that planning is something which everyone does who has any sense of tomorrow. So far we have not had from the government any clear statement with respect to the goals it has in mind, and certainly the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) this afternoon has added nothing to the information which we require. I suggest it is about time that the government stopped believing in the myth of an invisible hand which will guide the economic system through to its optimum performance. The old laissez-faire doctrine that if the economy is left to itself it will resolve its own contradictions is both unacceptable and dead.

This reorganization measure is only one of many reorganization measures which have been submitted by a Liberal government. Some people have a tendency to forget, and the government seems to want them to forget, that while this government may have a new Prime Minister it is not a new government. A Liberal government has been in office for almost six years and we have had a steady progression of programs and reorganizations introduced with great fanfare but with very disappointing results.

I can understand the Prime Minister quoting from Petronium Arbiter. I thought he had a bit of a guilty conscience when he reminded us that over 1900 years ago a wise man said that sometimes reorganization was used for creating the illusion of progress, because that is what we have had. In nearly six years of Liberal government in this country we have had a series of new programs and reorganizations without results; they are like a man moving around the parts of a jigsaw puzzle in the hope that somehow or other some picture will emerge.

I submit the government's failure to set clearcut goals and its failure to allocate resources have made all of these past reorganizations both ineffective and fruitless. Mention has already been made of the fact