

Government Organization Act, 1970

physical fitness of our young people. So any ministry set up which would be responsible for our youth should put physical fitness high on the list. This year a great many of our young people will be coming out of universities and secondary schools with no prospect of employment. So a ministry of youth should set up a system to ensure that every young person who comes out of school, either permanently or merely for the summer, has available to him a job out in the fresh air which would combine self-improvement, economic improvement and resource improvement for our whole country.

Perhaps, to inject a little humour because I may be getting a little too intense, may I say that I notice that in part III of this bill we are to have astronomical observatories. I hope that they will not merely be set up to keep track of the unemployment figures. To get back to youth management, may I point out that our young people today are extremely interested in social services. A great many of them come from affluent homes and they are not solely interested in making money. Many of them want to give of their time and do the sort of thing that President Kennedy spoke about. They want to go out to the underdeveloped countries of the world and devote their time and energy, gratis in many cases.

What machinery have we set up to enable our youth to do this? We are doing it in dribs and drabs. We expect the churches to do it all. I think that governments in almost any other country in the world are involved in such programs, but we in Canada have little to match it. I suggest that a minister of youth might well take the initiative of the United Nations. I think that our generation has failed miserably to establish peace on earth through the United Nations. I venture to say that our young people, if they were involved in a kind of junior United Nations, might travel around the world in the spirit of brotherhood which they often speak about. They want a vehicle for it. Let us give it to them. Let us give them leadership. As John McCrae said in his "Flanders Field", maybe we will have to throw them the torch. We have failed to hold it very high, but among the young people today there are thousands who want to take up that torch which we have failed so miserably to carry. But this takes organization and encouragement.

If we are to enlarge our government by five ministries, certainly a ministry of youth would be one of the most important ways in which we could show faith in our young people, in their physical fitness, in their mental training and in those spiritual qualities which are probably more important than the first two. We should show them that Canada is a country with no territorial ambitions, with little bad history to live down, a country which a generation ago was held in the very highest esteem by the smaller countries.

We could be a bridge not only between Britain and the United States, as we are supposed to have been historically, but we could go out to all those countries which look to us for leadership. We are always talking about dynamic leadership, but we have to take positive steps so that our young people may regain confidence in us and see that we really mean what we say and that we put

[Mr. Bigg.]

first things first. When we are sorting out our 35 ministries, we should show our faith in our young people by putting their own ministry, new though it may be, in its proper place, at the top.

I hope that in setting up these new ministries we will try to be fair. If we are to have a big government, let us at least try to make it as fair as we can. Some good may come out of establishing more ministries, and if we are going to look in the ranks for those who might fill them best, it might be a good idea to appoint many parliamentary secretaries. But I am not sure how much more money they should get. The idea of having professional cabinet men is quite new in the democratic process. When I first came here 13 years ago, I thought I would be well paid just by having the honour of being asked to accept more responsibility. I never thought that my pay should be doubled in order to serve my country in a better capacity. In fact, I have often wondered whether it would not be better if we reversed the process and provided that when a member took cabinet rank he should work for less money.

• (9:50 p.m.)

The Chairman: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member to advise him that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Chairman: The hon. member may continue if there is unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Bigg: Mr. Chairman, I have reached the second last item that I wish to cover. I was speaking about salaries. I sincerely believe there is a danger that if the salaries of cabinet ministers are set at double those of backbenchers, there may well be an unseemly scramble for the higher posts. A man would think twice about accepting a cabinet post if he had to accept a monetary loss when doing so. The Liberal party is well sprinkled with men of affluence. A great many of them take an independent view on the question of paying members of Parliament any money. I would take the same view if I had several millions of dollars in my account in any bank in Canada. Several hon. members have often spoken about the privilege of serving in this chamber. From their point of view, that is very noble, but there is something to be said for the point of view that if we want high-class help we should be willing to pay for it. But I do not take away from the idea that it might be good to have a pool of qualified men, well screened for their talent. In my view, one talent that a good minister should have is the courage to fight the government on a question of principle. If you pay a minister twice as much not to fight on principle, this will perpetuate a very mediocre type of leadership.

Part IX of the bill alarms me, Mr. Chairman. Unless I misunderstand it, this part provides the Governor in Council with the right to move estimates from one department to another and thus evade responsibility to