

ments in order to reorganize them, before setting up new ones?

The hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Faulkner) said the other day, as he was blaming the opposition for objecting too much to Bill C-207, that he thought it was a very inoffensive piece of legislation of no great importance. If this is true, I would call upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) or the minister who introduced this bill, to withdraw it immediately. We could proceed to the consideration of more serious legislation, if this bill is really inoffensive and of no great importance.

But if the minister suggests that the bill before us is of some importance, and that its aim is to increase administrative efficiency, it would be necessary first to know whether its passage would be really profitable.

I note that very often certain departments only operate against Canadians and particularly against producers.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the members' attention to the report of the proceedings of the Senate Committee on External Affairs dated November 4, 1970, regarding what I consider as poor administration. I would like to quote some excerpts from this report.

Senator Macnaughton was asking the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) what was the matter with meat imports, particularly lamb from New Zealand. As a matter of fact, the question was as follows:

Mr. Minister, I would now like to turn to New Zealand, and include with it the meat problem of Australia. You mentioned yourself the possibility that Great Britain may make the European Common Market in due course. Needless to say, as you so well know, the New Zealanders are extremely upset. Here is their assured market which may be in jeopardy.

Is Canada considering possibly stepping into the shoes of Great Britain and stepping up the importation of lamb from New Zealand and meat from Australia, on three grounds: firstly, we need a secondary source of cheaper meat than filet mignon every day; secondly...

Mr. Gibson: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order...

The Chairman: The hon. member for Hamilton Wentworth on a point of order.

Mr. Gibson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that the hon. member is out of order because he is talking about New Zealand lamb. This is not the matter under consideration and I protest.

[English]

The Chairman: I think the point of order of the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth is well taken. However, I do not wish to seem to be too strict in this particular debate because I believe other hon. members have wandered a little at times. I hope the hon. member will try to stay on the subject.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for having raised this point of order, but I do not think I am out of order for drawing the attention of the House to the administration of existing departments.

Government Organization Act, 1970

That is what I said at the outset and it will not take long to make my point. I resume the quotation, with your permission—

Mr. Boulanger: Permission is not granted.

Mr. Beaudoin: I quote the rest of the question:

—and thirdly, Great Britain has to, as you have so wisely said, consider a market of 300 million and not a market of 50 million—

Here is how the minister answered:

I am pleased to tell you that this has already taken place. Mr. Burns might explain.

Mr. Burns is Assistant Deputy Minister for External Services in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Here is his answer:

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian tariff on meats from Australia and New Zealand is a very low one, of the order of a quarter or a half a cent a pound—

Mr. Boulanger: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

[English]

The Chairman: Order please. The hon. member for Mercier is rising on a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, you have just called the previous speaker to order. Now, after having recognized that you were justified in doing so, he said he would continue in the same vein.

Mr. Chairman, you can tolerate this situation, but if you want the Standing Orders to be respected, you will have to recognize that the hon. member does not abide by them.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

● (4:10 p.m.)

[English]

The Chairman: The hon. member for Hamilton Wentworth raised a point of order. I think the hon. member for Richmond may be straying a bit far, and perhaps he would try to confine his remarks to the part with which we are dealing.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to show how effective are the present departments before determining if the creation of others would benefit Canadian producers. I continue with Mr. Burns' answer:

There has been a very sharp increase in meat exports both from Australia and New Zealand in the last 18 months.

Is this sound administration, Mr. Chairman, especially with respect to our Canadian producers who find that the price of their products vary by 4, 5 or 6 cents per pound from week to week? Do you think, Mr. Chairman, that with departments such as these and such irresponsible people—I restrict myself to this particular field because I did not have time to consider the whole question—we will get somewhere? As a matter of fact, we, of the opposition, must be everywhere at once.