

Government Organization

involves working in as close as possible co-operation with the police force which is responsible for law enforcement and for the detection of crime. This problem increases in its difficulty and complexity as one develops a highly organized criminal operation which carries on across both provincial and international boundaries. It seems to me that without an efficient and well trained police force acting in close co-operation with the officials of the crown who are responsible for law enforcement, it would be impossible to deal adequately with this menace, and it certainly is a menace.

One of the most important features of law enforcement at the present time is the ability to co-operate with the departments of justice in other parts of the world, for example in the United States, the provincial law enforcement departments, the attorneys general of the various provinces, and indeed with the municipal law enforcement officers. How can a department, the other functions of which under this particular bill are restricted to such matters as parole, penitentiaries and matters of that nature, be in charge of the extremely delicate and important responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The whole issue of security is one which falls on the shoulders, I suggest, of the Minister of Justice, and yet the police force which is responsible for reporting on matters of security is put under the jurisdiction, for training, organization and for all matters concerning its welfare and discipline, as a separate government department or a separate minister of the crown, namely the Solicitor General.

● (9:10 p.m.)

My remarks have nothing whatever to do with the present Solicitor General (Mr. Pennell) or the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin). It does seem to me to be totally wrong in these days when security is important, and when the battle against organized crime is important, to handicap the efficient dealing with these matters by taking the very force that should be the spearhead of enforcement out of immediate association with the department responsible for law enforcement.

I did not hear all that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) said today, but I believe that he did suggest that this change would make the situation equivalent to the British system where the home secretary has some responsibility for the police, and under

which system there are different departments administering justice. I suggest that the situation in Britain is totally different. They have a homogeneous population with very different sorts of problems, different traditions and a different background. I do not know how well that division works there, but I suggest that if it works well that is no reason to assume it will work well here.

There is one other feature of this bill which again suggests a sort of haphazard allocation of functions. As has been suggested, in order to balance the different ministries and to give each minister and his department something, or enough, to do, problems in relation to bankruptcy and insolvency have been assigned to the new department called the department of the registrar general. Again one can discuss this without relation to any other personalities involved.

I do not think the government has yet appreciated what is involved in the battle against bankruptcy frauds. It has overlooked the fact that reputable newspapers have described conditions in the bankruptcy field as being equivalent to twentieth century highway robbery on a grand scale. They have referred to the breaking down of law enforcement and \$500 million lost to small businessmen throughout this country, largely through the inefficient administration of bankruptcy laws. Or, they have suggested that a good portion of the \$500 million has been lost in that way.

In this house the Minister of Justice told us at one time that there was to be a re-organization of and amendments to the Bankruptcy Act which would permit the government of Canada to take a new and much needed responsibility in the field of investigation of bankruptcy frauds. What sense does it make to do that when the responsibility is to be handed to a department which is totally outside the channels of law enforcement? That department will have to develop a new channel of communication with the provinces or operate through the offices of another department.

If this government is seriously worried about bankruptcies it should not put bankruptcies and insolvencies into an entirely different department which has certain important responsibilities in regard to combines, which in itself is a large subject and ought to encourage activity far beyond what is taking place. That department also has responsibility for patents, copyrights, trade marks and corporate affairs. The new registrar general of