

Government Organization

clearly answered in the legislation and I believe they require more searching study.

Certain clauses of this bill give the minister vast powers. I suggest he take advantage of them to call for a quarterly review of all national research projects to ensure that we are not undertaking in Canada work on scientific developments which has already been carried out and perfected in other countries. Today, improvements take place so rapidly that it is possible to spend money researching projects which are already obsolete as a result of technical advances in other areas. This seems to have been the case in connection with our defence ship, the hydrofoil *Bras d'Or*, named after the area in which the principle was perfected more than 60 years ago on the Bras d'Or lakes.

The *Bras d'Or* displaces 200 tons and is 100 feet long. But the Americans already have hydrofoils in service of far greater tonnage and dimensions, specifically one named the *Plainview* which is 212 feet long and displaces 300 tons. I submit that national research projects should be studied by the advisory council which the minister proposes to set up as part of the machinery of this new department. If this course is followed there will, hopefully, be better control exercised over future projects of this sort and, of equal importance, better control over expenditures made in connection with these developments.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, earlier I listened with a great deal of attention to the remarks of the hon. member for Lotbinière on the bill under consideration. I admire his conjuring ability which made it possible for him to relate his remarks to the bill without being called to order by the chairman. I hope that for a few minutes, the chairman will show towards me the same leniency.

I fully agree with the hon. member for Lotbinière when he says that we, French Canadians, are not properly represented in the departments. However, I do not agree with his conclusions which, in my opinion, weaken his argument.

If we follow his thinking French Canadians who represent about 30 per cent of the Canadian people, should hold 30 per cent of the well-paid jobs in the public service. However, the hon. member for Lotbinière should not mention discrimination too often and too loud because I do not think that it is mainly a matter of discrimination under the circumstances.

I should like to tell the hon. member for Lotbinière very briefly and as kindly as possible because I know that he is trying, as we do, to get results and that deep down he would not like it—that we should not make a political bogey of bilingualism, which would of course take away the merits of his argument.

I admit that statistics are sometimes surprising in certain areas of the public service. This is a fact. However the hon. member for Lotbinière should tell the whole truth and recognize that if that was true 100, 50, 25 and even 15 years ago, it is no longer the case today. Let us admit at least that the government has taken steps to alleviate the situation and I shall point out to the hon. member for Lotbinière that we cannot reasonably expect a situation which has been so deplorable for a century, to disappear in two, three or even five years.

This is the work of a whole generation and if I wanted to be very mean I would say to the hon. member for Lotbinière “doctor heal thyself” because, among the hon. members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste who are calling out for bilingualism, to my knowledge at least ten of them are not bilingual. Still, they are members of parliament—

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

Mr. Mongrain: —who should grant to the others what they would have the others grant them.

• (4:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Lotbinière on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see that my remarks interested the hon. member for Trois-Rivi res (Mr. Mongrain) to that extent. Personally, I am also very pleased to hear his obliging remarks and I hope he will believe me when I say that no prejudice is intended to anyone.

However, I refuse to accept, Mr. Chairman—and this to my mind is a point of order—the fact that the hon. member for Trois-Rivi res says that I do not act according to what I say in the sense that at least ten members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste are not bilingual; if he went around his own party he would see that the proportion there of unilingual members is perhaps even greater. Nor