

Government Organization

There are two reasons for this, and the first one I have covered. I have referred to the lack of leadership. This government has introduced a controversial issue when they could have been legislating and developing sound economic policies. For example I have given one illustration when I referred to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp).

As I said at the beginning, the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has been fitting the job to the man. He studied the three R's very carefully when he did not get the right men for the jobs. We are talking about reorganization, for example; but never in the history of this parliament has the Wheat Board been under the Minister of Finance. I am not taking anything from the minister's intellectual capacity or his intelligence or knowledge so far as the Wheat Board is concerned. After Harry Hays was defeated in Calgary, or perhaps even before he was defeated, since the Wheat Board was not under him, the Prime Minister realized he had to take an eastern Minister of Agriculture, a lawyer, who might not understand anything about the western farm economy. He therefore took a man who had been deputy minister of trade and commerce, a man who knew about the Wheat Board, and said: I will move that job over to him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: They are agreeing with me again; it is wonderful to have the Grits in agreement. It is a great feeling, but I will come to the point. The Wheat Board was placed under the Minister of Finance. In other words, the government has said they are going to reorganize the executive, but all they have really done has been to fit the job to the man.

Now, let us come to the question of the Department of Justice itself. We now have the Department of Justice divided into three. I gather that the Department of Justice is being carved up like a Christmas turkey, but the minister is not here. You have to analyse this situation carefully. The Prime Minister turned to the Solicitor General because, not only was he a very popular lawyer in his community and a likeable member of parliament, but he was good at public relations. The Prime Minister realized he had had nothing but trouble with his ministers of justice. He had to fire one when he did not really want to fire him. Then he got another man who gave him further trouble. It was decided to carve up this department and give

the greater part of it to the Solicitor General, a man who was good at public relations, and in this way try to get out of the mess.

Let us not disguise the true merit of this bill. It is not as great as it looks. You are not really reorganizing the executive; but if I may digress for a few moments, there is something else with which you are dealing. I have talked about the three R's. In addition to that, whenever a senator has been brought into the cabinet, there has generally been no more than one. When a prime minister chooses his cabinet, he has to choose from amongst the elected members of his party. The situation in the United States is different. I am glad to see one member here who is always advocating a republic, and I hope he will listen to this. In the United States the President is elected, but he chooses his cabinet from the various walks of life. He can go outside of Congress to choose men of experience in the various fields. He does not seem to be so concerned with the three R's. He gets a man who can do the job. The Prime Minister, however, has had to concern himself with the three R's.

This bill is the direct result of one thing, and that is that the Prime Minister had to fit the job to the man. Let us take a look at what has happened in the Department of Justice. I want to say something now in a very serious vein with regard to the Minister of Justice. His job is one of the most important jobs, in my opinion. Under his department we have the legal officers of the government who advise all the departments of government on the law. The job of Minister of Justice, therefore, is extremely important. He has to administer the law of the land fairly and fearlessly, without discrimination. In order to do that, he must have a respectable administrative police officer. If I never make another point tonight in this speech, I want to make this point. Throughout the years in Canada the R.C.M.P. has been the most respected police group in this country. The force has been built on sound tradition and we have attempted to make certain that the R.C.M.P. and its commissioners were kept out of politics. If the Minister of Justice is going to administer the law, then in order to do that fearlessly, without discrimination, the R.C.M.P. should be under the administration of the Minister of Justice. There has been trouble in that regard.

The Prime Minister, under the guise of the reorganization bill, has transferred the