

Government Organization Act, 1983

wasted, right across this country. Some provinces received more than others. Certain things were done. In my own province, you know what they did for a big industrial park, to get around the maximum of \$5 million per facility? They simply put up a fence down the middle of the site, and so they were able to get \$5 million for each half.

You know, people are getting cynical. Now, what is being proposed in this Bill is to get rid of the Department of Industry altogether. International trade goes to External Affairs, and becomes External Relations. Now, trade is a specialized subject, and the Minister responsible for this Department may be the best diplomat there is but he is not a businessman. I am not very keen on this marriage of two philosophies, which is just not going to work out. As one of my colleagues said earlier, a nice Cabinet shuffle, a lot of window dressing and bureaucrats who are going to reap the benefits of all this.

Mr. Speaker, before I finish my comments, I would like to say that I hope we will be able to obtain many more explanations in Committee, especially on the third section of the Bill, which intrigues me because I have heard the President of the CDIC testify before the Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and it just does not fit. They are creating another pork barrel, without accountability.

[English]

That portion, Mr. Speaker, setting up changes to the Crown corporations, will have to be examined in committee with the closest of attention because I have already seen some of the results of the operations without the legal framework. As a matter of fact, CDIC has been, frankly, illegal—maybe not illegal; illicit is a better word—for nigh on two years. We want to see not only legitimacy, we want to see how there will be accountability for moneys and an assurance that they will not be lumping together Canadair, de Havilland, Massey-Ferguson and the other one which I do not know the name of that they have in the portfolio, as well as some others that they may acquire or set up so that everything can be well hidden from the long-suffering Canadian public which has paid and paid and paid billions and billions of dollars through the incompetence of the present administration.

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on Bill C-152 regarding Government reorganization. I think everyone will agree, especially the Canadian public, that we cannot think of a group which needs reorganization more than the present Government. As a matter of fact—well, they moan and groan over there but if they spent some time in their ridings, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you will agree, they will have heard the same things we did, and the groans are in support of what I am saying and not in objection. What is actually needed more than reorganization is rejuvenation of the Government of Canada. We are prepared to do that and will be doing so in the very near future, as soon as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) screws up enough courage to call an election.

● (1650)

I would like briefly to discuss reorganization and my concerns regarding the Ministry of Trade entering into External Affairs. As a spokesman for our Party on immigration, I lived through the problem of overseas immigration officers coming under External Affairs rather than the Ministry of Employment and Immigration. In essence, they were answering to two bosses. My sympathies went to the then Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) for the problems he experienced since he was involved with his departmental staff in Canada while the immigration officers, who were making the decisions on the front line in the various embassies and consulates throughout the world, were answering to the Department of External Affairs. Naturally, confusion arose and there was great duplication in attempting to get information about what had happened to an application. Of course, Immigration had to refer to External Affairs in order to go to the immigration officers. As we all know, it was bureaucracy at its finest.

We now see that the Department of Trade will also come under External Affairs. I have had some experience with foreign trade. At one time I worked for the Hon. Claude Bennett in the provincial Government of Ontario when he was the Minister of Industry and Tourism. We were involved in trade matters to a considerable extent. One fact that we discovered about trade was that it was the small businessmen who needed the help with respect to exporting and becoming involved in foreign trade. By and large, if large companies have an introduction from a Government, they have no problems with follow-ups and carrying on foreign trade. They have the wherewithal to hire the expertise and deal with the myriad of details one must go through in foreign trade. The small businessman does not have this capability.

We now find that the small businessman comes under the Department of Industry and Commerce while the trade aspect is within another ministry. Suddenly the responsibilities have been split again, resulting in more confusion within the business community. I feel sorry for the businessmen in this country who already have enough problems filling out all the forms and reports that they must make. They are harried to death by the Government and this simply gives them another Department with which to deal.

Anyone who has recently talked to the staff in that Department will know that they are at their wit's end. They do not know what is happening in their Department, which I believe is probably symptomatic of the present administration. They cannot proceed with programs because of the great deal of uncertainty. They do not know how the program will be administered or by whom. This is a serious situation and I believe that the bureaucrats would much rather stay with the original system than see the Department of Trade go to External Affairs. For that reason, I am very concerned about this change.

Let me talk for a moment about DREE, DRIE and the other famous initials one must get used to when one comes to Ottawa. I am also concerned about the arrangements pertain-