

Government Organization

but I have recognized the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I intend to make only a few remarks at this stage. First of all I should like to state that I am sure most hon. members on both sides of the house are going to support the general purport of this bill which is to adapt government techniques to modern times. I hope that this general reorganization of cabinet responsibilities will help us to do one thing, namely, to co-operate with the provinces in order to plan priorities. I know that in many ways this is a difficult thing to do, but when we are giving increased responsibilities to a minister who will represent the Treasury Board in this house I hope that either he or some other designated minister will take it upon himself, with government support, to do everything possible to bring about the improvement in this field which is needed so badly. In 1966 I think we have learned a lesson on both sides of this house, namely, that in a country like Canada we can make no real progress in an economic, social or political sense unless we do everything possible to unite our country and to improve federal-provincial relations.

[*Translation*]

I am perfectly aware that the government has made some progress in that field and has improved its relations with the provinces, because we note in each corner of the house that it is now impossible in 1966 to make some progress in the social, political or economic fields without endeavouring to improve relations between Ottawa and the provinces.

I do not entirely agree—and I say this without any feeling of partisanship—on the policy laid down by the ministers, but we have made some progress in that field.

[*English*]

If we are going to do everything we can to improve federal-provincial relations in a modern state like Canada and really adopt our new ministerial procedures to modern times we will have to make a greater effort in a bipartisan way to plan priorities with the provinces. I hope that this governmental reorganization will mean two things basically: First, improved and permanent consultative machinery as between Ottawa and the provinces and, second, the development of an ability under federal direction to plan priorities with the provinces in the social and economic fields.

In general I hope that the reorganization of cabinet responsibilities in a very general way and, in another sense, in a very definite way will restore federal leadership to the position that belongs to it in a country like Canada. Let us face the facts. This is the first nation in the modern western world which has attempted to make a parliamentary system of government work with a federal system of government.

[*Translation*]

But if we do our best to improve relations between Ottawa and the provinces, if we do our very best in that direction, I am convinced that we will have done great things to consolidate Canadian federalism.

[*English*]

Those are the few remarks I wanted to make at this time. I believe that the listing of priorities and improving federal-provincial relations are the questions that are foremost in the minds of members in every corner of this house. It is my hope that the reorganization of the cabinet will be at least a first step forward in attaining this goal.

Mr. Joseph Macaluso (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I do not find that the procedure of allowing six or seven opposition members to speak consecutively is very funny.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order, please.

Mr. Macaluso: In fact, I think it is discriminatory.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member for Hamilton West that he address the Chair and proceed to make his speech in relation to the bill now before the house.

Mr. Macaluso: I will be very happy to do so if hon. members will give me the opportunity. I am particularly interested in the reorganization bill as it relates to the new department of manpower. I hope the minister will return to his seat shortly after taking the telephone call to which he has been summoned.

It is proposed in clause 11(1) of the bill to name the new department the department of manpower. Clause 13 defines the duties, powers and functions of this department with relation to the development and utilization of manpower resources in Canada, employment