

make sure that their own ideas are brought forward. If they would do so, they would find it unnecessary to always blame a sleepy opposition or an ineffective leader of the opposition, and so on, as we have heard ad nauseum. I say to them that if they would come forward with progressive ideas, they would find they would get a great deal more support from this side of the House than from their own cabinet.

As the last speaker said, I have no doubt that with their large majority they could pass any number of statutes they desire. I want them to think over very carefully what it is they intend to put through. They must remember that if the number of the ministers and parliamentary secretaries is to be increased, these ministers and parliamentary secretaries should have a job to do and should be prepared to do it. These ministers of state should not be like sheep. I say to members opposite that they are certainly more in the public eye than members on this side and the things they say are quoted more often. I remind them, also, that the leadership they could give is eagerly anticipated all across this country.

Perhaps members of the public are not as frank with members opposite as they are with me. Believe me, I take criticism when it should be directed to the government and I take criticism which should be directed to Parliament. Sometimes we are not in a position to defend ourselves, because we are not given the answers we should be given to the questions we ask. I suggest that members have the opportunity to make their pressure felt by seeing that the questions asked are given the attention they deserve and are properly answered. We still have the power in this House to do anything we wish. We can defeat any government. We can defeat any piece of legislation. The people of Canada expect us to do this. I say, Mr. Chairman, do not believe the people of Canada are fed up with democracy, because they are not. They may be temporarily fed up with us and our performance here. If we listen carefully we will hear a continual murmur which would indicate they feel we do not stand up in our places and do what we should, because the silence sometimes is eloquent. They are waiting to hear that we are honestly striving to improve their lives.

It is passing strange, when our young people are unemployed, to hear statements from members of the government, unless they are misquoted, to the effect that Canada can stand "X" percentage of unemployment. I will not quibble about whether it might be 6 per cent, 8 per cent or 10 per cent. There is no parent in Canada who wants any percentage of unemployment because, unfortunately, the statistic of one might be their favourite son or daughter and they expect us to do all we can to find full employment for these people. If the proliferation of ministers would produce these results, I would be happy. If the proliferation of ministers and parliamentary secretaries would mean only that another five or six Liberals are promoted and are willing to adopt a sheep-like attitude and do exactly what they are told without thinking, then it is my duty to stand up here and say so. This is the way it begins to look to me. If we are to produce more ministries of state, there certainly are jobs which they could do.

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

I would suggest perhaps one ministry of state might be a ministry of youth. This is not a new idea for me. Some ten years ago I put forward this idea in a complete brief to our government of the day, and perhaps now I can say "I told you so". Ten years later I am sure history has given truth to my position in this regard. It is obvious that we need a ministry of youth, or at least a department of youth to co-ordinate the efforts of the federal government to see that our young people are given every opportunity to use their talents, loyalty, energy and leadership to the fullest extent.

• (9:40 p.m.)

We have made one or two abortive attempts at helping our youth. The efforts we made in the past were half-hearted. We did not give the responsibility of controlling the CYC to a responsible minister. There was a lot of wishful thinking. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, and through you to this government that they should not give this job to a junior minister. Our young people are our most important natural resource, and therefore the job should be that for our most able, capable, energetic and responsible minister.

Let us not do what we have done very often in past years with the Department of Indian Affairs—put it at the bottom of the list. This department is responsible for a very important section of our population, our first senior citizens, the hosts of this continent, people who on many occasions have given us an example in racial tolerance which we could well practise in less obvious quarters in our country. The Indian and Eskimo peoples have always accepted us as full brothers, and I am ashamed to say that we have not always accepted them.

But we have no excuse whatsoever with our young people. Our responsibility to them is of prime importance. So I think we need a full-fledged department at least, if not a full-fledged ministry, to co-ordinate all the efforts of the federal government on behalf of our young people. These young people have the energy to go and make a proper survey of our northern country in their time off from university, using their special talents in engineering and mathematics, their interest in geology, mineralogy and oil development. The young people are willing to go where they are needed, and they expect more leadership from us.

The physical development of our young people has been sadly neglected. During the last war some 70 per cent of our young people were turned down for the armed forces on physical grounds. In World War I only 20 per cent were rejected on physical grounds. So we lost 50 per cent of the health of our young people in two generations. I suggest that one of the first things that a minister of youth should do is to set up a proper program starting with the young people and, I hope, involving most of us in the end.

There should be a complete new look at the question of physical fitness. From there it is not far to go to consider our extraordinary lack of gold medals in the Olympic games. We are not going to get gold medals in the Olympic games so long as we neglect the health and