

Government Organization

• (9:50 p.m.)

We all know that cabinet ministers have to be appointed in a democratic country so that all provinces are represented in the cabinet. Consideration has to be given to other interests, other religions and to other factors in this country. Whether we say so or not, we know that is the way cabinets are appointed in this country, and rightly so in a democracy, where consideration has to be given to the people's opinions, the people's prejudices and the people's wishes.

Mr. McIntosh: May I ask the hon. member a question? May I ask what cabinet minister from Saskatchewan was appointed?

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I adopt what you have said on other occasions. That is a theoretical and argumentative question. But I think we can face the fact that a cabinet is appointed in Canada bearing all those factors in mind. No matter whether Liberals or Conservatives form the government, they adopt the same principles in appointing the cabinet in this country. Were we to form a government we should do the same if we were going to reflect the wishes of the people in the provinces, and all their interests.

I do suggest, with the increased, shall I say, complications of government, that ministers should have more opportunity to travel in the country, not just to deal with policy but to study questions of policy, and to consult with their senior civil servants on these questions. In that respect, Mr. Speaker, I think that the government should give some consideration to the training of parliamentary secretaries, so that parliamentary secretaries might at least remove some of the administrative burden now carried by ministers. That sort of thing could be done if there were a determined attempt on the part of the government to build what in effect would be a system of junior ministers, in the form of parliamentary secretaries, who would be paid for their responsibilities, who could be given extra training and extra work in order to relieve the ministers, shall I say, of quite a lot of the burden of day to day administration.

I think all hon. members of the house will agree with me that it is the responsibility of this government to govern in Canada. In connection with that I should like to quote a question that I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs on orders of the day. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, at that time you cut my political cords. I asked this question: "In view of the fact that Arnold C. Smith,

[Mr. Herridge.]

who is Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat is reported in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* on Monday, May 23, as saying in a speech delivered at Queen's University Convocation that: "Governing, is more and more rooted in the expert adviser, rather than in the politician"—I will not finish the question, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, I was honestly taken aback when I read that. This is something that must be fought against in this country. When we admit that the government of this country is rooted in paid civil servants rather than in the Parliament of Canada, we are marching toward an authoritarian form of government.

I have had a little experience in life. I have always been in the habit of dividing people into two groups, the producers, and the other group which chooses to live on other people's human weaknesses and ignorance. I have found, as a result of experience in a good many organizations, that I would rather trust the wisdom and common sense of the average man when any particular question is brought to his attention, no matter whether this is on the municipal, provincial or federal level, than I would the sort of narrow wisdom of experts. Their wisdom is narrow because they are trained in a very narrow and particular field.

In concluding my few remarks, I want to emphasize that whatever we do, whatever our views are in this house—and I think it is only right that those views that are held conscientiously should be respected—we must maintain that this parliament govern Canada, and that the roots of government are not more and more to be found in the senior civil service of this country.

[Translation]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, like all other hon. members I would like to make my contribution and say what I think about the present organization and the various departments concerned.

We have before us Bill C-178, an Act respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto. It says:

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts—

And there follows a series of clauses in which the various functions of various departments, which would operate satisfactorily if the economy were better organized, are