

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I suppose the parliamentary secretary was talking about the former governor of the Bank of Canada, who was making a speech in his position as president of the bank. However, I suppose hon. members opposite do not have the slightest concern for relevancy or whether any names or situations are at all parallel. Anything that pops into that wide open space between the ears rattles around and then comes out again.

If presidents of Canadian banks do not have the right to speak out on their own, then what right has the Secretary of State? It is alleged that he has the right to express his personal views, as he has in his book, even though he may disagree with those of the government. That is all very fine if that is the position taken by the government; but why single out individuals for comment and then go on to suggest that government must sit on the boards of Canadian banks in order to control individuals on those boards, as has been suggested in this particular instance?

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I do so to advise him and the committee that his time has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Continue.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member may continue if there is consent.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** If there is consent, Mr. Chairman, I can finish fairly shortly. All I am saying at this time is that I suggest to the parliamentary secretary from Bonaventure, and to all other hon. members, that if they study these particular clauses dealing with ministries of state they will see how insidious and dangerous a situation is being created. It may be, of course, that so many of the hon. members opposite are carolling or singing, hoping to draw attention to their own particular qualifications so that they might be among those who are upgraded for the various positions that will be open.

I should like to hear one hon. member opposite, and not one has yet done this, stand up and justify with valid reasons the creation of ministries of state of this kind with the power to change by order in council not only their composition but their tenure of office, their purpose, and the purpose to which their funds are directed.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Shocking!

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** The Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board is a great one to say "shocking". We know the degree of omniscience with which he approaches a given position; he thinks that if the members on the government side think something is all right, then it must be all right. I suggest to the hon. member, whom I have known for a long time, that if he sat over on this side of the House for a while he would see that it is a far cry from being correct merely to sit on the government side and approve all ideas that emanate either from the cabinet or from the administration. After all, one has to sit on the gov-

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

ernment side for only a short time to become aware of the influence of the bureaucracy and of certain individuals within the bureaucracy, the mandarins. This proposal is made to order for the mandarins and for those who populate the Prime Minister's office. Since the Prime Minister has broken through the ceiling of \$1 million in salaries in his own, personal office, I suppose we can expect a further expansion.

● (4:00 p.m.)

Certainly, all these ministries of state will have to be supported. The parliamentary secretary says "looked after". But it will mean jobs for the boys. It will be very nice, boys, too, at salaries of course which will set a great example for the whole country. But may I say this, Mr. Chairman: I must share the views of many of my colleagues who say at this point they will not allow this measure to pass. A great deal more explanation must come forward. As a matter of fact, there is one man who should come into this House and give the explanation concerning why he wants to change the composition of this cabinet. No cabinet ministers have been here at all, except merely to sit, except perhaps for the President of the Treasury Board.

**An hon. Member:** He is the one on duty.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Yes, but it is not his duty to explain this legislation.

**An hon. Member:** He has been delegated by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Chairman, the President of the Treasury Board may have been delegated by the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister owes it to this House to come here personally and say why he wants his cabinet changed. Perhaps government members have forgotten that the cabinet is responsible to this House and believe they are the masters. So far as I am concerned, that is for the birds.

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Chairman, I am happy to express my views for the first time on Clause 14 of Bill C-207 which I consider very important, as does my hon. friend the member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin).

This bill is one of the most important, particularly with respect to Clause 14, which gives the Governor in Council the right to increase the number of ministers from 29 to 34 and the number of parliamentary secretaries from 16 to 34, an increase of 18.

I do not doubt, Mr. Chairman, that many hon. members on the government side can indeed fulfill the office of minister or parliamentary secretary. However, I should like to call the attention of the House to the fact that in order to decide if the government should spend more money in the administration, we should know first whether this would be profitable for the people of Canada and if this would make a serious contribution.

Would it not be necessary now to give some consideration to the administration of the already existing depart-