

Official Languages

Mr. Pelletier: I am not.

Mr. Woolliams: With the exception of the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier), who says he is not political.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): And I am not a beast.

Mr. Woolliams: As Griffith and Street state, Parliament is not suited for the job of looking after justice, because it lacks independence. By the time a decision has been made some deserving Canadian's job has been on the line, his career is at an end, his university training, his skill, experience, etc., have been thrown in the wastepaper basket.

What will this do to scientific research in this nation? If a French-Canadian scientist is removed from his job because he refuses to speak English, we are denied the talents of this great man. He has no appeal; he is in the hands of this simple, little, old investigator appointed by a very powerful cabinet.

An hon. Member: Time!

Mr. Woolliams: Somebody says "Time". I can understand that my hon. friends on the government back benches are not interested in civil rights. They have been told by their party to rush this bill through and it does not matter what happens to Canadians.

What will this policy do to the economic decisions of the nation which must be made by dedicated public servants? I do not take this situation as lightly as hon. members opposite. How would the press like this kind of treatment? How would C.B.C. employees like it? How would C.T.V. employees like it? I ask again: Will the employees of the C.B.C. like it? We shall wait and see. May these people have some protection? There should be an appeal to a superior court so that justice not only will be done but will appear to be done. The powers and decisions which will emanate from this commissioner will create real fear in the hearts and minds of all men and women dedicated to the public service. There are approximately 70 federal seats west of the Great Lakes. There are 74 federal seats in the province of Quebec. We talk of national unity; that is the great candy that is always held in front of the Canadian people. There cannot be national unity for one side of the country and not for the other.

● (5:00 p.m.)

I speak for western Canada. People in that part of the country demand justice. Westerners should have an equal opportunity in the

Public Service of Canada. They demand justice for the dedicated citizens of Canada in the public service of our country because our universities in western Canada have produced some of the great scientists, lawyers and politicians of our nation just like any other parts of Canada. If they fail to receive this kind of justice, the movements toward separation will grow stronger. I am certain that western Canada, with its some 70 constituencies would ask for the right to appeal. Without it, masses of people of all races and cultures will be discriminated against and science, economy and politics will suffer. This nation will never be able to remove the pockets of poverty in its great urban centres if we cannot compete economically with the rest of the world.

At the flick of an eye in the United States the Canadian stock market descends into the basement and our interest rates ascend into the attic. To remain independent, a nation must receive the best advice in all fields from dedicated men and women in the public service, who must not be discriminated against. Why should a hearing be held in camera? Is that the kind of justice to which the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) is accustomed? Why should a complaint be made against any person or any department without that person being represented by counsel or without being present?

I wish to quote now the late Mackenzie King, a member of the Liberal party, and I am sure members of that party will agree with these words. They relate to the law which the all-powerful commissioner will be able to implement:

Now let us come to another point, which I wish particularly to stress. I refer to the right set out in Magna Carta that no man shall be dispossessed of his rights without the lawful judgment of his peers under the law of the land; not the law as made by the Governor in Council, not the law as made by some unnamed and as yet unexisting body, but the law of the land as known to everyone. It is an essential principle of liberty and freedom that the law of the land should be known, that it should be so known that every man as he runs may read. The law should not be something which is to make its appearance in the *Canada Gazette* after some board or Governor in Council, not parliament, has passed a regulation; it is something that should appear in the statutes of the country.

The kind of law that is going to be implemented by the commissioner is not even published in the *Canada Gazette*; it is a secret law. No one knows how the commissioner will exercise his powers, and I challenge any great lawyer or parliamentarian here to tell