October 25, 1983

Government Organization Act, 1983

cannot calculate, I think he is a good boy." That is about all that happens when a person is retired after two years' service. No one is rated. I do not feel that should be so.

This is serious business. We pile onto the legislative side a remarkable additional expense, and for what? It is not for greater glory. Everyone has become a former Parliamentary Secretary, even though they did not do any work to earn it. To that extent. I can only say that I only hope this Bill will be looked at again in the future and that future Prime Ministers will be much more rigorous, first of all, in their choice of Parliamentary Secretaries. This House only requires about eight or ten Parliamentary Secretaries, who should be rotated. In fact, some of them might be in a particular position for nearly three years, because if one is going to replace a promising individual, it may take that long to do so. In October of every year we have seen Members from various constituencies who personally have what it takes to do a job. The next day we see them shunted to the back row because of a whim of someone who wants a total change. This is nonsense. I feel we can do a great deal better.

I do not want to force a vote on third reading, so all I will say in conclusion is that I will let this Bill go through on division.

• (1730)

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, we also will agree to the Bill going through on division, not because we support it—indeed it is almost as much a dog's breakfast as it was when it first emerged well over a year ago—but rather because the Government reorganization to which it refers is pretty much a fait accompli and we realize there is not going to be any chance of getting any major changes now.

The Government offered only one change, and I am glad to see that it did, namely that a clause which would have allowed Parliamentary Secretaries to be chosen from the other place is no longer in the Bill. Other than that it has done very little, either to elucidate upon the Bill in the House or committee, or try to come up with some suggestions to get a stronger, better and more understood reorganization. It remains, particularly the part relating to the Department of External Affairs, a baffling outline of what looked clearly to most of us to be the creation of unnecessary Ministers and deputies, and about the only time I was not able to get any collaboration from the Conservatives on our criticisms of the Bill was when I could not persuade the Hon. Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley)—

Mr. Bosley: I explained it all.

Miss Jewett: —to join me in lambasting this new portfolio, the Minister for External Relations. I would have thought he would agree with me entirely that it was totally unnecessary.

Mr. Bosley: Oh, no.

Miss Jewett: We have no idea what the Minister does. The former Minister, the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Lapointe), laughingly admitted himself that he had no idea what that Minister for External Relations was going to do, and I could not get the Hon. Member for Don Valley West to support me on this because he is the putative Minister, or he thinks he is the putative Minister, if that is the word—

Mr. Prud'homme: Yes, but watch how you pronounce it.

Miss Jewett: ---should the day ever come, heaven forfend, that the Tories form the Government. Otherwise we did agree on a good number of the matters but we were unable to persuade the Government to try to bring more enlightenment and clarification to this Government reorganization Bill, particularly the part relating to the Department of External Affairs. The main reasons for the Government not wanting to provide greater clarity and efficiency is that it got a marvellous idea, particularly on the reorganization of the Department of External Affairs along with an incredible chart which accompanies it, that for every single young person in this country who was applying to become a foreign service officer in that Department or a trade commissioner, or a combination of the two, the Government realized you need to have the toughest possible qualifying examination, and it could think of nothing tougher than to ask all these students who are going to apply to explain the organization of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Forrestall: On division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Carried on division.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Pinard: I do not have my glasses, Mr. Speaker. I think it is six o'clock, and if you call it six o'clock we will agree.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 6 p.m. this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m. pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5.35 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.