

*Government Organization*On clause 8—*Duties of Registrar General.*

that a member has the same right as the government. I have very serious doubts about this proposition. In other words, what the hon. member is suggesting, if I understand his argument correctly, is that if the government has the right to include certain detail in a bill, then a private member should have the same right.

I cannot agree with this, because a resolution cannot be expected to include everything that is in a bill. A resolution is always of a very general nature and invariably there are a number of clauses and matters that appear later in a bill that do not appear in a resolution.

The fact that the government has the power to do that does not give a member of the house the right to move an amendment—which might otherwise be out of order—simply because the government has this power. To my mind the position taken by the Chairman of Committees in the first objection he has to the proposed amendment, in which he refers to the question of relevancy, is very sound.

Hon. members know by experience, much longer experience than I have—and this applies particularly to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—that it is not easy to move an amendment of consequence that is relevant to a clause of a bill. In this case I do feel that the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is beyond the scope of the clause or article of the bill which he seeks to amend, and I refer him, as did the Chairman of Committees, to paragraph 1 at page 549 of May's seventeenth edition.

It is my belief that the amendment advanced by the hon. member goes beyond the scope of the clause, that the amendment adds substantially to what is being proposed in the government's bill, and for this reason I must agree with the Chairman of Committees that this amendment is irrelevant and cannot be considered. I therefore confirm the decision of the Chairman of Committees.

• (8:10 p.m.)

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-178, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto—Mr. Pearson—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: The committee was discussing clause 8, and an amendment was made thereto which the Chairman ruled out of order. Mr. Speaker confirmed the ruling of the Chairman. The committee now is on clause 8.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, may I put a question to either the Minister of National Revenue or the President of the Privy Council, depending on who is in charge of this clause in the bill. In considering the functions of this department, did the government give any thought to including among its functions a review of prices or consumer affairs and, whether it did or not, will the government now consider moving, itself, the appropriate amendment to enlarge the functions of this department?

[Translation]

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Chairman, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) spoke on the second reading of this bill—and I refer to page 5431 of the English version of *Hansard* for May 24, 1966—he made quite clear that the government intended to explore as widely and as deeply as possible the jurisdiction of federal authorities in the consumer field with regard to those areas in which such jurisdiction has not been defined up to now. He added that the government also intended to ask—and such request has already been made to the Economic Council—for a study in the areas or spheres where federal intervention would be justified or necessary.

I said in my own remarks that the very wording of the legislation clearly reflects or indicates the government's intention to re-group under a single administration or within a single department, the statutes and organizations dealing with business matters and also with the interests of consumers.

This intention, as reflected in the present bill, indicates beyond doubt the interest taken by the government in consumers as such. Furthermore any additional piece of legislation likely to affect the consumer field shall have to be passed in the light of the recommendations made by the Economic Council, and any regulations to this effect or any regrouping of additional jurisdiction or responsibility, will have to be made after the views of the Economic Council have been submitted to the government.

On the other hand, there is something specific which has never been included in a piece of legislation up to now: the Prime Minister made clear that since there will be a minister, it will be one of his duties to speak on behalf of consumers and to protect their interests.

I repeat that in order to introduce a more precise wording of the act to the house, if