

Government Organization

government cannot lay the charge of obstructing against us. This is an old, worn-out piece of salesmanship on the part of this government, because there has not been any legislation placed on the order paper except the controversial matter of the abolition of capital punishment. I am thinking of matters such as amendments to the Bank Act. In reference to the question of reorganization and getting on with the job of government in parliament, today I asked when the new Bank Act would be introduced. What was the answer? The Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) said, "I answered that question last week." I was away from the house last week and I make no apologies for my sin. However, I thought perhaps I had missed the answer and so I went to my office and looked up the minister's answer. His answer was very intellectual; he said, "We will bring it in soon."

This government knows the reason we are not getting on with the business and important matters such as the Bank Act. It is because they are so super-sensitive about the political trend in this country that they are frightened to bring in important legislation. Therefore they charge the opposition with obstruction. This government is not getting on with the job. I congratulate them on many phases of this reorganization.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Woolliams: I appreciate the response from the other side of the house in this regard, and I appreciate their agreeing with me. They are reorganizing the departments, but unless the government shows leadership they can reorganize the departments to death and will still not do anything. You have to get the legislation on the order paper whether it is embarrassing to you or not. You went out and electioneered on these issues. I congratulate you tonight. You are the government. We wanted to be the government. The Canadian people said, "We are not accepting your platform, particularly at this time." Therefore you are the government and it is your responsibility. You have failed in that responsibility.

If parliament is not getting on with the job, the responsibility is on the shoulders of this government. This is the very reason why in my opinion we now have this bill dealing with reorganization; it is to bluff the public in some regard. There are some changes in it that are good. Wherever you go in this nation you hear from the people that the only thing

[Mr. Woolliams.]

we are discussing in parliament is a commission for this or that matter—the Munsinger case, for example. I come to grips with the subject immediately; this inquiry is being held in another area and the only thing I know about it is what I read in the newspapers and I am not very interested. But the fact is that parliament has not done very much. The fact is that we have had the Speech from the Throne and have dealt with the question of the abolition of capital punishment. Then we had the Budget. But the main things the Liberal party promised to do, and the things waiting to be done, have been neglected and they are trying to hide under the cloak of that old propaganda of the opposition being obstructionists.

Let me say at once that we have not been obstructing in this parliament. I am not speaking about other parliaments or 1963, when the then opposition obstructed us to death. Neither am I speaking about the first Liberal government, when there may have been some obstruction on our part. But the fact is that we are talking about this parliament in 1966, and the onus is on the government to get down to the job and do the business. If the people of this country are fed up in this regard, they are fed up immediately after the election because the government has not done its job. That is the first point I want to make about reorganization.

Mr. Choquette: Perhaps you will be the leader of your party next week.

Mr. Woolliams: I am glad to hear that interjection, Mr. Speaker. Certainly if I was, or became leader, I would endeavour to assume the responsibilities of leadership, which the hon. member's party and his leader have failed to do.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

● (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Dinsdale: They are in agreement over there.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes, they are getting ready for their caucus on Wednesday. The reorganization of departments as suggested in this bill will not make for efficient government until leadership is given. This government lacks leadership and has lacked leadership for a long time.

There are some changes which would be welcome, and I have welcomed them, such as the placement of energy and mines under the same roof. However, when you analyse the bill carefully, you find it really has no value.