

Civil Service Act

the civil servants as well as for his own deficiencies. That is the essence of our system of government.

I am not suggesting for one minute that this view has not been accepted by everyone on the treasury benches, but I do hear from time to time from certain hon. members who have not had long experience in this house the view that the government cannot be blamed for this or that because of all these wicked civil servants who will not let the government do what it wants to do. That is only a condemnation of a government; it is not a condemnation of the civil service. This, to me, is the essential point, and it is the point I have been seeking, perhaps with a few diversions, here and there, to make.

Mr. Martineau: We have been treated to a most entertaining discourse from the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate pertaining to what I think I can describe as his philosophy, his approach, his attitude in regard to the relationship between public servants—

Mr. Pickersgill: Civil servants.

Mr. Martineau: I said "public servants". The hon. member says "civil servants".

Mr. Pickersgill: There is a difference.

Mr. Martineau: —and the government. I know the committee wishes to be entirely fair to the hon. member, and I think the only way we could be entirely fair to him would be to put on record as far as possible the entire thinking of the hon. member on the subject of this important relationship. The hon. member, with a modesty which I can only describe as being truly Pickersgillian, if I may be permitted to coin a phrase, chose to read only certain specific passages from the immortal address—I think he will agree that if it was not immortal before, it is immortal now—which he gave to the students at Carleton College on October 23, 1953, and which was reported in the *Citizen* the following day. There is a good deal in his address of which all of us can approve, and that is why it should be put on the record—I am serious in saying this—if I am permitted to do so. The headline reads "Pickersgill Opens New Carleton College Building". The report is as follows:

Marking a significant milestone in the history of Carleton College, Secretary of State J. W. Pickersgill yesterday officially opened a new school of public administration.

Now begins the report of the address:

State Secretary Pickersgill said it was impossible to be a good public servant without understanding and respecting the fundamental facts of Canadian nationhood—

The point I wish to stress at this particular moment is that the hon. member is referring [Mr. Pickersgill.]

to public servants at large, not to civil servants in a restricted sense.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am sure the hon. gentleman does not want to be unfair. I imagine I knew what I was talking about, or what I intended to say, and in any event I think the context shows what I meant, because every time I referred to public servants I also referred to their political chiefs. That speech comprehended only those public servants who have political chiefs, that is to say, those who are in a department having a political head. I want to make it very clear that that is the kind of public servant—a civil servant, in other words—to which I was referring in the whole of that speech.

Mr. Martineau: Mr. Chairman, my very purpose in being on my feet is to be fair to the hon. member. I wish to be fair to him in every way. The hon. member has given the committee a certain interpretation of what was said, of what is here in black and white. That is his interpretation. No one denies that that is his interpretation. Other hon. members are equally free to take whatever interpretation they might like to take from the written words. *Scripta manent*. The report continues:

—the fact that recognition of two official languages and two systems of jurisprudence is embedded in our constitution and the fact the nation began by tolerating two distinct but closely related cultures.

That is good. Then this article continues:

"If we are to have a good and well balanced public service in Canada, recruits must be drawn from both those original elements of our population and also from those newer elements which have been added to it", said Mr. Pickersgill.

One thing Mr. Pickersgill did not conceive the new school as an institution which would be much concerned with the methods and techniques of public administration.

Referring to his own experience the secretary of state declared, "I know that there are those who would disagree violently with this view—some people already have, including the chairman of the board of governors of one of our most respectable universities—

I do not know whether at that time he was referring to the chairman of the board of governors who happened to be presiding at that meeting and who thanked the hon. member following his speech. However, that is only a remark in passing.

Mr. Pickersgill: As a matter of fact I will clear up that point right now. It was not that particular chairman, and, to tell the truth, I have completely forgotten which one it was.

Mr. Martineau: Be that as it may, it is immaterial in this particular construction.

Mr. Pickersgill: Quite.