

Government Organization

being set up, we will be able to deal with this problem. It is our intention and objective to do the work with less people. This is one of the savings we have in mind. I repeat this will not be done overnight. I am sure it will work out satisfactorily for all concerned.

I agree with the hon. member for Wellington with regard to charges for our services. It is the intention of the department, when providing services for a client department, to make a reasonable charge. It is a matter of time to determine the proper rate of charge. Hon. members will agree if it is going to cost more to charge and assign a particular department, it will not make sense to impose a charge. The department is working out a system to determine the actual cost for services to be provided. The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre asked why we were so long—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):
Regina East.

Mr. Jamieson: I am not doing too well on constituency titles. The hon. member for Regina East made a comment with regard to time. I believe I answered that by saying we have been implementing portions of this since 1964. I agree this should be done quickly. I also answered the question he raised with regard to the two deputy ministers. Let me re-emphasize it is not additional persons, but merely a re-designation of the former comptroller of the treasury.

One of the main reasons the department has been established is to bring about co-ordination which will eliminate one department having a surplus of materials while another department is purchasing the same because of a lack of rapport between them. The new data processing methods will be very beneficial. May I say to interested hon. members that we would be happy to arrange a tour of the pilot project in Ottawa. The hon. member and I are in complete agreement, Mr. Chairman, that the real test will be the effectiveness of the system. I am sure this will be successful. There is no point building a better mousetrap unless it works.

We must continue to assess our methods and carry out consistent checks. I personally feel very strongly that we need an advisory committee so that other departments can inform us how well we are serving them.

With regard to the matter of delays, I refer to my opening statement that we are a business oriented department and we must ensure that our client departments are given

good service. On this pilot project delivery times are less than normal for commercial enterprise. If there was time this evening, I would give details of the bureau of standards. It has been proven that we can standardize and we are attempting to ensure there is uniformity throughout the supply sector. An item of general use can be supplied to all departments. We have not found many variables in terms of one department requiring a particular item and another department requiring the same item with a different colour. It is a very complex subject and problem, but progress is being made toward resolving this problem.

It would not be appropriate for me to comment this evening on matters now before the public accounts committee, such as the *Bona-venture* and hydrofoil. It is my information several meetings are planned and a number of witnesses will be called. The appropriate position would be to wait until the report is received from the committee. On the matters raised by the hon. member for Regina East and the hon. member for South Shore, it would be better to wait until the report is received. However, I would say in a general way we are looking forward to this report and recommendations of the committee. Although improvements can be made, I do not accept the general criticisms which have been levelled. There are answers and these may be in the committee report.

The hon. member for Regina East commented on moving and storage. This is a very sizeable activity of this department and the government generally. As hon. members know, there is a good deal of mobility in the public service and the armed services in particular. The situation is not as my hon. friend describes it. I was a little surprised that representatives of my friend's party went to bat for the moving business because, as hon. members are aware, there have been suggestions that an investigation should be conducted into this industry with regard to combines practices. However, I will not go into that. Until recently the position has been that companies charge the same rates.

● (8:30 p.m.)

Therefore under that arrangement it was a matter of allowing a certain amount of leeway and choice to the persons or group being moved to decide amongst themselves. But the fact of the matter is that there is another company and this company has in fact met our requirements and standards and has given a rate which is considerably lower. I