

it, and that it would all work out in the best interest of the people and the government of Canada. The work of parliament could be handled in six months.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Vancouver East.

**Mr. Winch:** Mr. Chairman, the approach in principle to resolution No. 56 which now is before us already has been presented by our house leader, the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam and the hon. member for New Westminster. I am not going to repeat what they have said. I do wish to speak, however, for a little while on this most important resolution because of two aspects contained therein, and also because I have been intrigued somewhat by the statement of the hon. member for Carleton, and just now by the hon. member for Macleod. It appears to me that the major attitude of the hon. member for Carleton toward this resolution was the fact that if it is passed and the bills which are to follow it were passed, it would mean the establishment of 26 departments and 26 cabinet ministers.

I should like to emphasize that personally I do not give a hoot whether the number of cabinet ministers is 15, 20 or 26; the number of cabinet ministers is not the important factor. The important issue is that whatever number is required in respect of cabinet appointments they shall be such that there is no overlapping, that there shall be efficiency and that the responsibility of each and every cabinet minister shall be such that he will be in a position to know his department, know his responsibilities, do his job, and do it effectively.

The ultimate question is not the number; it is the efficiency of the operation. Therefore I cannot accept, in opposition to this resolution, a debate with regard to whether there should be 15, 20 or 26 cabinet ministers. I was of course most intrigued by the remarks made a few moments ago by the hon. member for Macleod. When it comes to labour, he wants everything put together; but when it comes to the matter of selling our wheat, that is the problem for one man.

It was most interesting when the hon. member for Macleod stated that manpower should be within the ministry of labour. Originally I felt the same way, but I had to change my mind. Why did I change my mind? When considering the history of events in the last few years we find that when the Conservatives were in office the hon. member

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for Ontario was the minister of labour. I remember that hon. member in answer to a question in this house telling us that the government had established an interdepartmental committee to deal with problems associated with automation. However, I cannot place my hands on any report received by the House of Commons on the work of that interdepartmental committee dealing with automation, nor can I place my hands on any legislation based on the studies of that committee.

• (7:50 p.m.)

The Conservative party was then replaced by the Liberals as the party in power. I remember the minister of labour in the Liberal government also telling this house about an interdepartmental committee which was set up to deal with the problems created by automation. I cannot place my hands on any report from that interdepartmental committee or legislation based on any studies it may have made.

For these reasons it appears to me that under both the Conservatives and the Liberals no department of labour or departmental committee under the responsibility of the Minister of Labour was able to come up with recommendations dealing with one of the greatest problems which faces the Canadian economy. Let it not be forgotten that perhaps the greatest problem facing our economy is related to matters of technological development, modernization and automation.

Over the years these problems have fallen within the purview of the Department of Labour, but no effective action has been taken by that department. I think the present government is doing the right thing by establishing a manpower department, because this whole matter is of such vital importance it requires special and intensive study on a basis separate and apart from the other responsibilities the Minister of Labour must accept.

**Mr. Winkler:** Will the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Winch:** As soon as I have completed my remarks I shall be glad to answer the hon. member's question.

The importance of this whole question was brought forcibly to my attention last fall when I was a member of a conciliation board sitting in British Columbia. This board sat for some eight weeks listening to evidence and formulating conclusions. One of the greatest