

*Establishment of New Departments*

Brant-Haldimand, we can restore fully public respect for the administration of justice in this country.

I have equally strong feelings about the dispersal of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the creation of the new department of manpower. In the first place, I do not think citizenship should be divorced from immigration, certainly not the citizenship registration branch. Citizenship registration must necessarily use immigration files as its basic records, and I believe the whole balance of convenience is in retaining them in the same department. In many ways the citizenship branch has not had sufficient attention. Successive ministers—and I admit my own fault—have inclined to become so immersed in the detailed problems of immigration and of Indian affairs as to have insufficient time for citizenship problems.

Implementation of some of the best features of the Sedgwick report would relieve the minister somewhat to enable him to give more time to citizenship problems. In the Department of the Secretary of State I fear the citizenship branch will be just another orphan, unwanted, unattended and unheard. All this will indicate my definite view that the citizenship branch must have much greater attention, more money, more staff, more parliamentary support. We have done much less in this field, and what we have done has been less effective, than other democratic countries.

The transfer of Indian affairs is probably logical but it cannot be realistic without the appointment of a separate deputy minister of Indian affairs. Many members of this house do not, I think, realize that we have rushing upon us—I was going to say “creeping upon us” but really it is rushing upon us—the major problems of the 1970's in the field of Indian affairs. This parliament must make soon some very basic decisions or we shall have among our original citizens the most urgent problems of the next decade. At the very least a separate deputy minister is needed. Very soon after I assumed the portfolio of citizenship and immigration I became convinced of this and I think I can say that had there been no change of government we would have had already a separate deputy minister.

• (6:50 p.m.)

However, what troubles me is that the new department of manpower is a marriage of immigration and parts of the public service formerly in the Department of Labour.

Personally I believe in proper, selected, continuous immigration as a stimulus to the economy even in periods of recession, but that has never been the opinion in the old Department of Labour.

During consideration of the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration I have already stated my strongly held opinion that the submerging of immigration into what is basically a labour portfolio is a grave error of national policy. I repeat it and I assert my confidence that a sensible, continuous, long range immigration policy will suffer.

When I assumed the portfolio of immigration, I soon learned that it was the very branches of the Department of Labour now sought to be integrated with it that consistently and persistently brought pressures to bear to reduce immigration, to cut it back, to hold it down, and this at the very time when in my opinion the Canadian economy badly needed the stimulus, the shot in the arm, if you will, of expanded immigration.

The department of manpower will be a department warring within itself, and because of the orientation of the proposed minister of manpower I have no doubt which contestant will win. As a matter of fact, I submit that the net effect of the proposed changes will be to deprive this country of a consistent, long range immigration policy.

I believe I could give the committee evidence of what I assert. In my travels I have visited other countries and their various departments of immigration. I will not mention the countries; I do not want to be invidious in mentioning them. But I believe those which have a separate immigration portfolio are much ahead, in relation to immigration policy, of those that combine immigration with labour. Without hesitation, I assert that immigration as an instrument of national policy is subdued wherever there is this marriage of immigration and labour.

Regretfully I predict that this will be the result of the Prime Minister's proposals here.

In other portfolios the changes have been tailored to a new minister. In the department of manpower they have been tailored not only to the proposed minister but to the deputy minister as well. With great respect and equal firmness, I ask the Prime Minister to re-examine his proposals. It is not too late to change, particularly when a change would be in the interest of more effective administration.