

Government Organization

detrimental to immigration policy and, perhaps even worse, to the labour policy of this country. Based upon my experience, sir, as a minister of citizenship and immigration, and upon detailed observations in other countries where labour and immigration departments have been married, I believe this proposed department of manpower will be a department warring within itself. In such circumstances and within such a framework Canada cannot achieve a rational, balanced, aggressive immigration policy, and I predict that immigration will suffer, and suffer greatly, with consequent grave disadvantage to our economy.

These are views, sir, which I asserted on the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and on the resolution stage of the bill, without apparently being able to convince the Prime Minister. I do not propose tonight to pursue the arguments further, except to reiterate that I am convinced that this is a grave error of national policy which will deprive this country of a consistent, expanded, long-range immigration policy, a policy urgently needed at this very time.

I add tonight that it would have been very helpful indeed to the committee to have had before it the white paper on immigration. I urge the minister to end the lead swinging that has been going on in this respect, and to bring forward the white paper on immigration which has been delayed now since it was first promised by the Prime Minister in December 1963.

There is the further fact that the Prime Minister's proposals leave the old Department of Labour so completely emasculated as really not to be a department at all. Except for the fact that the hon. member for Vancouver Centre has retained his responsibility, which he had in other portfolios, for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, he would be, at least during periods of industrial peace, virtually unemployed. He would have the smallest, the most attenuated department of government of all.

In my view, Mr. Chairman, this is turning back the clock. How it must disturb the celestial peace of Mr. Mackenzie King. For sir, it was he, under the aegis of Sir William Mulock, who established the Department of Labour, and that department was always his special pride and joy. Mulock, Lemieux and King himself were the first ministers of the Department of Labour and established, in my view, competent, imaginative leadership in that portfolio. Parliamentarians of distinction

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

and prestige of Gideon Robertson, Wesley Gordon and Norman Rogers added lustre to the ministry till the hon. member for Ontario, one of the greatest ministers of labour of all time, brought it to its highest authority within the government and within the cabinet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): All this tradition has been thrown away.

Miss LaMarsh: He had more people out of work than anybody.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I am sorry; I do not hear what the hon. lady is muttering at this time.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the hon. gentleman might agree with me that the hon. member for Ontario probably had more people out of work, to work with, than any other member of this house ever had.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I want to say to the hon. lady that there were fewer strikes when the hon. member for Ontario was in charge than at any other period in the last 15 years, and that there are many workers who owe a great deal as a result of the vocational training plan—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): There are a great many young people in the city of Niagara Falls and in other parts of the country who have a great obligation to the hon. member for Ontario.

Perhaps the hon. lady would hold her peace. She will have plenty of opportunity to speak later on. Her colleagues have been giving her a wonderful example of how to talk out government legislation. They have done that all day. They are experts. I suggest that the hon. lady should not join with them in that.

I want to say that this Department of Labour is the department which bore the brunt of the struggle against the depression in the 1930's. This is the department which initiated so many of the policies which overcame the recession in the 1950's. This is the department which has been especially chosen by the Prime Minister for the guillotine. What is the reason for this? Let us be frank about it. It was simply to tailor a department for the hon. member for Quebec West, and for Mr. Tom Kent.