

*Civil Service Act*

**Mr. Pigeon:** When the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis) stated that the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Dorion), the Secretary of State, had left the house, he was dishonest because that is not true.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Mr. Chairman, I was in the house and so were all the other members who are present at this time, and I would ask the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm to withdraw the word "dishonest" he used when he spoke about me.

**The Chairman:** Order. I was just going to tell the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm that he must not use that word and ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the word but I should like to say that the hon. member has been unfair to the hon. member for Bellechasse.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm showed a want of tact, as usual.

(Text):

**Mr. Macdonnell:** Mr. Chairman, I have a very important announcement to make. I am not going to talk about the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. I am not going to read his speeches. I am going to ignore them because it seems to me that this afternoon we have been in great danger of making the publicity of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate the chief subject of discussion. Indeed, he indicated that himself.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I did not start it, though.

**An hon. Member:** You encouraged it.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** I wish to make two or three brief remarks about the civil service. I wish first of all to say a word about the committee and its proceedings. I was glad of what the hon. member for Ottawa East said. It is true that we really endeavoured to discuss in good temper, regardless of party, the questions which came before us. I am sorry to say that it remained for a member of this House of Commons who was not on the committee to refer to second class citizens, the juggling of wages, etc.

If there ever was a time when the subject matter was considered seriously, the subject matter being the welfare of the civil service, I think it was in that committee. I am glad to think that we are now going to have a chance to discuss it here in the same temper.

We were fortunate in having the hon. member for Carleton, the hon. member for Ottawa East and the hon. member for Ottawa West on the committee. They have, I think in very special degree, a knowledge of the ways and

workings of the civil service, and we had the great advantage of their assistance.

I should like to read just a sentence from the report of the Heeney committee, pointing out briefly and accurately the tremendous change in the civil service since this act was passed more than forty years ago. It states as follows:

15. During this period—i.e. since the act of 1918—and particularly since the 30's, the functions of the public servant have undergone a significant transformation. Fifty years ago, nearly all employees in most federal government departments could be classified, with reasonable accuracy, as clerks, for most were engaged in routine clerical work. Today, the public servant may be scientist, medical doctor, meteorologist, film maker, etc.—

I think we need to remember that when we are considering the problems of allowing people into the service. The difficulties of selection, of course, are great. The question of educational equipment is, of course, all important. I think there is a danger that we should come to regard technical efficiency as the whole story. I do not believe it is the whole story. Particularly as you rise to the top of the civil service I think you need people with what I can only describe as general human capacity wisdom and a broad view of things. I would therefore say that in our selection we should have regard not only to technical matters but to other matters as well. I should like to say one word about the situation which has obviously arisen with the expansion of the duties and the qualifications of civil servants. I refer to the relationship between what is done by government—and we expect it to do so much more than formerly—and private enterprise. I think it is from the happy relationship of those two fields that the most successful and efficient operation of our economy will come.

Years ago I happened to see a good deal of the functioning of the department of mines of the Ontario government. I saw there what I thought was a very happy illustration of the fullest co-operation between the government and the private individual. That department carried on a great deal of scientific work. It had conducted surveys of the whole potential mining area and had indicated where the likely areas for prospecting were situated. They had carried out an enormous amount of useful work. But it was the hard boiled prospectors taking a chance, perhaps 100 to 1 against them, using that technical information and going in with the impulse of private initiative who, let us say, took to the ultimate the work which had been done in the department and discovered the mines.

I like to think of that because at the present time it seems we are sometimes not very clear as to the relationship between public and private services, and it seems to me also