

*Government Organization*

We can see, for instance, that the duties of the Solicitor General are listed as follows:

4. The duties, powers and functions of the Solicitor General of Canada extend to and include all matters over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction, not by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the government of Canada, relating to

- (a) reformatories, prisons and penitentiaries;
- (b) parole and remissions; and
- (c) the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Those will be the responsibilities of the new Solicitor General, once Bill C-178 has been passed.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that we have had complaints about our penal institutions and prisons, especially penitentiaries, for several years, to the effect that the prisoners are ill-treated and cannot be trained while in detention, and that they cannot be rehabilitated after they have served their term.

With regard to pardon and release on parole we have also had distressing cases, which have been mentioned in the house, elsewhere, and in the newspapers, such as the Dion case in Quebec.

There are other cases where people have been freed under the provisions of the Parole Act and have returned to crime.

It is understood that more extensive studies in each of these cases should be undertaken beforehand.

I do not intend to dwell on this question. We do not object to the new Solicitor General being given responsibilities to this effect. As members of parliament, we want to have access to information that we might need in cases of release on parole and particularly as concerns the actions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As for the new department of registrar general, its duties are the following:

8. The duties, powers and functions of the Registrar General of Canada extend to and include all matters over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction not by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the government of Canada, relating to

- (a) combines, mergers, monopolies and restraint of trade;
- (b) patents, copyrights and trade marks;
- (c) bankruptcy and insolvency; and
- (d) corporate affairs.

● (4:40 p.m.)

As regards combines, mergers, monopolies and restraint of trade, we have now, as we had in the past, concrete examples.

In my northern area for instance, there is an I.G.A. company. This I.G.A., which can be [Mr. Caouette.]

found almost anywhere in the province of Quebec, is controlled and dominated by a certain Mr. Loeb, or the Loeb company here in Ottawa. It belongs to Mr. Loeb.

In my area agreements are signed for a year and a half or two years with retailers. Lately, this same Loeb company has been buying out wholesalers—wholesalers are now controlled by the same people who control retailers—and retailers under contract with the Loeb company have to come to terms with wholesalers, who keep another name, but are nevertheless dominated and controlled by the Loeb company that just bought them out.

Now there are hundreds of such cases throughout Canada. But Mr. Loeb seems immune from federal legislation on combines, mergers, monopolies and restraint of trade.

While I was in Rouyn last week I met dealers from Amos, LaSarre, Val d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda. They complained that the Loeb company, or Mr. Loeb, had full control over wholesale as well as retail trade in our area.

The small independent dealer now finds himself in a position where he can no longer operate without resorting to one of the many branches owned by Mr. Loeb, either in Amos or Rouyn; there is complete control.

In that field it would be important, not only after the federal registrar is appointed, but for the present minister, who witnesses such things, to determine whether or not an investigation should be carried out. I suggest that the minister should have an investigation launched immediately as regards those combines and mergers, and particularly those monopolies and restrictive trade practices.

As far as I am concerned, I owe Mr. Loeb nothing and the small independent dealers in my riding do not owe him anything either. But when people have to be under Mr. Loeb's thumb in order to become independent dealers and retailers, generally known as I.G.A., who have to buy their supplies from Mr. Loeb who purchased for instance, the A. Gouin firm in Amos, the Lafortune & Gagné business in Rouyn-Noranda, and who would be ready to buy other firms so as to assume the full control of trade in our area, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, there is more than food for thought here. This matter should not only be considered by the House of Commons but also investigated by the department concerned.

I sincerely believe that the Registrar General, once appointed, will have a lot to do throughout the country with regard to trusts,