

Government Organization Act, 1983

I should like to explain to the Hon. Member that this Party does have a position. One of our positions is to create jobs. That is the policy of the Progressive Conservative Government that will come into force after the next election. The Hon. Member feels that we do not have any policy, but we do, Mr. Speaker; we are developing it. Give us time and we will come in and create jobs. Many auto workers will be behind this Party 100 per cent.

I think this Bill will create more confusion in the business community of the country. We will have a Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development and we will have a Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Trade has been moved from its traditional place over to External Relations.

Perhaps some large lobby group could understand what the Government is trying to do, but the medium and small business people do not have a clue nor do they have the money or resources to try to survive in Canada. The failing of the Government is that it is not assisting industries to get started or new businesses to get started and thus create employment in Canada.

The Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development, MSERD, will have offices in every city in Canada and so will the Minister for Regional and Industrial Expansion. A businessman will have to try to figure out which office he should contact.

This whole situation means a proliferation of the bureaucracy. It also allows the Government to circumvent its six and five formula which it claims has been such a bonanza for Canada. It has done nothing for the country, Mr. Speaker, but protect the civil servant.

I believe that one area will benefit greatly from the IRDP grants that come under the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. I believe that Cornwall should really benefit under the program. As \$300 million has been designated for this, it is about all it can do to carry on a few new industries for a couple of years. What will happen to those industries afterwards is the big question.

Let me go back to some of the responsibilities of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Trade outside of Canada has been removed but Trade and Commerce within Canada has been added. When a company is trying to design a manufacturing facility and to distinguish between what goes out of the country and what stays in the country, it finds out how much it has for export and how much for domestic consumption. It does not assist industry to have to deal with one Department on one subject and with another Department on another. Furthermore, I do not believe the Government should be selling the product. I believe the private sector should be given the incentive to sell its own products. There are no salesmen in Government but there are salesmen in private industry who can sell these products.

The major criticism that we have is that we are going back to grants. Grants have not been successful. Even though we support DREE 100 per cent, it has not been successful in accomplishing the development of further expansion in those

parts of the country that require assistance because of a tremendous loss of employment. It has also thrown into this new ministry small business and, Mr. Speaker, small businesses do not have the expertise, the personnel nor the lobby groups. The Canadian Federation of Business and the Canadian Independent Association of Small Business have both condemned this Bill as not giving any assistance to the small business community. And when you realize, Mr. Speaker, that about 85 per cent of the businesses in this country are small businesses, you can see that this is very important to the mass of people out in the country. Therefore, I do not know why the Government has put this change through because it is accomplishing nothing. What it should be addressing is the creation of jobs and putting the emphasis back into the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to create new jobs in Canada. The intent of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce was to look after international industries, attract foreign industries to this country and attract Canadians to invest in businesses which could create employment. This is not being done by this new Department. Furthermore, two Departments are being put together which were at odds with each other. Industry, Trade and Commerce was looking after the survival of successful business and DREE was put in place to assist marginal industries to become successful and to create labour in those parts of Canada which do not have their fair share of industrial employment. These two Departments are now thrown together, and who is going to get the emphasis from this Government? I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal Government is intent on reducing the number of businesses because the more businesses there are, the larger will be the constituency they have to deal with which is unhappy with their policy. I would say very simply that we on this side are very much in opposition to this change. We are very much in opposition to this Bill. It only restructures something for the bureaucracy. It does nothing for the citizens of Canada.

● (1630)

Part of the purpose of this new organization, this new ministry, is to decide to whom and where the money should go. The people who should decide that, Mr. Speaker, are in the marketplace. A bureaucrat who has never been in the private business world, a bureaucrat who has very seldom been outside Ottawa, has no concept of what can be successful and what cannot. There is, through this new organization, absolutely, no co-operation with the provincial Governments, which could help the bureaucrats in indicating what industry can survive in the Maritimes or in northern Ontario and what industry will survive in southern Ontario.

An analysis is needed. Fill-in is needed from the business sector. This responsibility should be left up to the people in the marketplace. What they have done, I believe, is to destroy the benefits we had under DREE and the benefits we had under Industry, Trade and Commerce, which have been thrown together as if in a Mixmaster, hoping that something better will come out. Usually when you use a Mixmaster and mix things up, they come out sweeter. I believe, Mr. Speaker, this is going to come out sour and everyone will be unhappy. The