

*Government Organization*

its funds are being spent. I do not see why we should wait for the provincial solicitor general to open an inquiry. I do not even know whether he wants to do so. Mr. Wagner makes a lot of statements but he does not seem to be moving. I do not think he is very interested. In any case, he is engaged in an election at the moment.

Another subject which deserves our attention concerns the committees of this house. We have had a lot of trouble lately with the committees. It is all very well to subdivide the work of cabinet ministers but members of this house are here to do a job too. On many occasions the reports of committees are not even considered in the house despite all the work that has gone into their preparation. This must not be allowed to continue. Are we here only to ask questions and bring in recommendations which very often are not considered at all?

Not everything done south of the border is deserving of blame. Sometimes we must congratulate our neighbours on the way they arrange their affairs. Committee work under the United States' system of government is much more efficient than anything we have here. Committees, properly employed and given wider powers, can be of great help to each and every one of our cabinet ministers. But their reports must be considered and acted upon and the committees must be given the authority necessary to inquire into such cases as the one I have cited. Their reports would be of great help in the preparation of legislation. Committees could recommend changes in legislation and such recommendations should be seriously considered by the government.

I should like to hear one of the hon. gentlemen opposite express an opinion on this matter. In the United States a senator is paid a salary of approximately \$30,000. In addition he receives an expense budget of \$80,000 to help him get organized. It is true we are paid \$18,000 here but that is still far from what they are getting. I was talking to an hon. member of this house who had come back from Washington. He said, "Good God, they know more about Canada there than we do here".

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** I must remind the hon. member that we are dealing with the reorganization of departments. His remarks are most interesting but I do not think they are relevant to the bill now under consideration.

[English]

**Mr. Langlois (Mégantic):** I humbly submit that each one of these committees is subject to one of the cabinet ministers. We are proposing to subdivide the ministries in order to lessen the work of ministers. If we did not adopt the attitude of the ostrich by hiding our heads in the sand and waiting for someone to kick us in the bottom, we would consider how things are being done in committees of this house.

**An hon. Member: Order.**

• (4:10 p.m.)

**Mr. Langlois (Mégantic):** There are many things that are in order with which I do not agree. Maybe they are not sensible but we have to follow the rules. Rules are to be followed but sometimes we should put them aside and apply common sense. I agree I may be reaching the very boundary of the subject under discussion but I think I am still within the line. It may be a very thin line but if we stretch it outward a little farther we may help the government solve the country's problems, its own problems and our problems. I should like to conclude on that note and I hope I will have the opportunity to return to it when dealing with specific clauses of the bill.

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** Mr. Speaker, when dealing with the subject of reorganization of the government one cannot help realize that three years after this government took office the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has acknowledged the fact that it is unable to cope with the problems facing Canada under the rules and regulations that have been in effect over a long period of time. Many in the house will recall that during the government's first year or two in office it constantly came back to the house with the admonition that it was the rules of the house which prevented the cabinet from giving the country the kind of administration it required. But now, following amendment of the rules on a provisional basis, the Prime Minister comes into the house with a proposal to reorganize the government itself.

I cannot help but feel it would have been much easier for the Prime Minister to reorganize his cabinet by placing in control of the departments of government that have existed for a long time members within his own party who could make the necessary decisions within the framework of those departments. To take departments such as agriculture, justice and labour, divide them into two or