

packaging and advertising practices which merely perplex and confuse them. They are now expecting concrete action and will not put up with constitutional excuses for much longer.

If the government sitting across the way find themselves losing touch with, and the sympathy of, the Canadian electorate, it is because in the course of the last few months the cost of living has been surging upward, with no sincere demonstration on the part of the government that they intend to do anything about it. The government have had their opportunity in this bill to show that they mean action. Obviously they are not prepared to accept the good suggestions they have been given.

**Mr. Nasserden:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the President of the Privy Council could answer the question I asked him a minute or two ago.

**Mr. Favreau:** Mr. Chairman, in answer to the question which has been put I repeat what I said before. It is not the intention at this time to modify the clause. Any consideration as far as the government is concerned that might be given to changing the text of the bill, if it is enacted, will be given once the report of the Economic Council has been received.

**Mr. Gilbert:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council a question about the speech made on Saturday by the former secretary of state, the hon. member for Outremont-Saint-Jean, in which, among other things, he said during a question period that several federal departments should disappear and new ones, such as science, and consumer and family affairs, be formed. He said that there must be a major overhaul, much more than has been done in the last few months; that changes must be made in the organization of the cabinet; and that the economy needs a major overhaul. I am wondering whether the President of the Privy Council associates himself with these remarks and is prepared to make the necessary changes in line with the thinking among the left wing of his party?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, every member of this house has the right to express himself in his own words both inside and outside this house. I know my hon. friend who made these statements—at least I presume he made them in Toronto—is writing a book, and undoubtedly in his book he will outline all his

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ideas. We will all be able to give them consideration in due course.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council a question in light of his remarks a few moments ago. Since the beginning of the session I and a number of others have received letters from people across the country in which they ask various questions about prices, the elements which go into price increases and the justification or otherwise for them. We have been asked questions in regard to protection along various lines, such as advertising, packaging and so on.

When we have put these questions to the government before orders of the day are called we have been sloughed off, usually without any answer being given, or we are told there will be investigations made later on in the year. More recently I have had questions sent back to me with the statement that no department of the government is responsible for answering such questions, or words to that effect.

I should like to ask the minister whether I would be justified in assuming from the remarks he has just made that when I receive letters and inquiries of this kind his department is now a suitable department with which to take up these matters, and that he will be the suitable person to answer such questions.

**Mr. Favreau:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot say whether I am the suitable person, but I can say it is correct to assume both from the statement made by the Prime Minister and by the statement I made in the name of the government that the registrar general will be the minister with jurisdiction in this regard in the future. I think both the statement of the Prime Minister and my own can be interpreted as meaning that, to the extent there is federal jurisdiction and responsibility, this will be the department which will be concerned with these matters.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

On clause 11—*Department of Manpower—Department established.*

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, at the resolution stage I stated emphatic opposition to the marriage of the department of immigration and the major portion of the Department of Labour. In my view it will be