

Appointments to Crown Corporations

that if you happen to live in a municipality of more than 12,000 people you will no longer be eligible to borrow money directly from CMHC. The other regulation says that if you are in a municipality with fewer than 12,000 people and if you earn more than \$8,000 a year, you will be ineligible to borrow money directly from CMHC. In other words, no one can qualify because, if you think of it, you will see that no one earning less than \$8,000 a year can afford to build a house.

This is the kind of regulation that emanates from some of our Crown corporations. They pass these regulations without anyone's concurrence, and then we bear the complaints of the people on our backs. When we tell the minister about complaints like these, his answer is, "After all, this is an independent organization." That simply is not good enough and will not be good enough in future. Over 100 new Members of Parliament came here with the idea of changing the system of government. How can we change anything if the entire reins of government are in the hands of the mandarins. It is impossible to change anything.

I know my time has almost expired, Mr. Speaker, and I know other hon. members wish to debate this subject probably until after six o'clock. This notice of motion will die on the Order Paper unless we take action now. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, and I realize I am not following a usual course of action, that in these circumstances, since much has to be learned about the problem, the matter should be studied by a committee where witnesses from the provinces and elsewhere can be called. For instance, members of the Ontario Legislature serve on the boards of Crown corporations. If we can examine this matter carefully from every point of view, and obtain the points of view of others, we shall be in a much better position to determine what can be done. May I suggest, if it is the unanimous wish of this House, that the subject matter of the notice of motion we are now discussing be referred to the appropriate committee of the House in order that the committee may examine it carefully and ascertain all the facts.

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with much interest to the debate so far and to the statement of the mover of this private members' notice of motion. I wish to commend him for it because it deals with a fundamental principle, a principle of public administration which will have to be considered carefully and studied by

[Mr. Stewart (Cochrane).]

other members of this House. I hope this will be just the beginning of the debate. Whatever the forum of the debate, the question is of such fundamental importance that it must be weighed carefully and thoroughly before legislative action is taken on it.

In principle I support the motion, Mr. Speaker. In recent years we have seen the growth of the public service. We have seen, really, a major public service and a lesser public service growing up. Numerically, the members of the major Public Service are those employed in the regular departments of government under the control of a minister of the Crown who reports to Parliament according to the established constitutional principle of executive responsibility. The other civil servants, while they may be numerically fewer, in many ways have enjoyed growing influence and superior conditions of remuneration and employment. I refer to the field of the Crown corporations.

The reasons for establishing Crown corporations are well known and have been cited in numerous textbooks. A Crown company like Air Canada is established because we want it to be like a competitive private firm. In many ways it is in competition with private industry and therefore has to adopt a corporate framework. Its members must have the ability to make managerial decisions that will enable the company to hold its own in the world of private enterprise. The Polymer Corporation was created within the same framework. It was created under the exigencies of wartime to develop a formula for synthetic rubber to meet an urgent national priority. It was given the necessary capital to do so. It was given encouragement, personnel and access to the technical processes. It has established a record of success of which Canadians are justly proud.

• (5:20 p.m.)

In between the purely commercial type of Crown corporation, the government has developed a hybrid of another sort. I do not intend to be derogatory, quite to the contrary. I refer to the National Capital Commission which is officially described as a Crown corporation. Its responsibility is not like that of a commercial enterprise which is selling a product. The Commission is to carry out a federal purpose within an area defined by an act of this Parliament as a national capital region. That federal purpose is, in its application, the acquisition of a green belt for long-term planning, major national parks such as Gatineau Park and Vincent Massey Park and planning and