

Government Organization Act, 1970

essential means to lead an efficient war against pollution where it exists.

The primary function of government is to fight the worst kind of pollutions, that is financial pollution and to make available to provinces and public bodies interest-free loans granted by the Bank of Canada, in order to enable those organizations to take the necessary steps, according to their jurisdiction, and fight pollution.

The government is already polluted by its election funds. It cannot fight financial pollution, because it proceeds therefrom. This is why I have more or less confidence in the establishment of the proposed Department of the Environment.

• (4:10 p.m.)

It is already compromised and will have to be satisfied with finding out the deplorable effects of every kind of pollution. As usual, it will leave the task of solving the problem of pollution to private industry or to others. It will be able to give lessons to everyone on pollution, but it will not act, because it is already polluted.

On Saturday, our Prime Minister came back to Canada, and yesterday, he was in the House for the first time, after an absence of over 25 days, following a trip to Asia.

A few months ago, he said on television: Enough of this nonsense. And today, after several trips to almost every country in the world since 1968, particularly when we see how our Prime Minister behaves in foreign countries, we have to admit that the nonsense is not yet over.

The supreme talent of our great traveller is to bring with him many publicity people who are very well looked after and travel in his own plane. In fact they are shown so much consideration during these long and frequent trips that it is very difficult for them to publish anything but praise for our great traveller when he returns from his long and costly trips.

I would like to give you here the list of all those who accompanied the Right Hon. Prime Minister on his trip to the East. There were forty-five of them. They are Messrs. J.E. Walker, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, R.G. Robertson, Secretary to the Cabinet, A.E. Ritchie, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ivan L. Head, special assistant to the Prime Minister; Romeo Leblanc, press secretary to the Prime Minister; J.L. Gray, President of Atomic Energy of Canada; D.D. Tansley, vice-president in charge of operations, Canadian International Development Agency; A.G. Kniewasser, assistant deputy-minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce; the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle), physician to take care of the sick on the trip; Gordon Gibson, special assistant to the Prime Minister; John Gongos, RCMP inspector; H. Stewart, Director, Administration Division, Privy Council Office; R.V. Gorham, Eastern Division, Department of External Affairs; A. Donnelly, assistant press secretary to the Prime Minister; V. Chapman, assistant in some capacity or other to the Prime Minister; Captain R. Godfray, in charge of luggage; Miss Cécile Viau, private secretary to

[Mr. Rondeau.]

the Prime Minister; Miss Annette Walls, secretary to the Clerk of the Privy Council; Miss Thérèse Brazeau, secretary to the Prime Minister; and Mr. Y. Rivet, communications agent, Department of External Affairs, that is 21 persons to serve the Prime Minister, plus 24 others: newspapermen, radio or television reporters. I have a full list of those people, but it would take too long to read it. Altogether 45 people—a regular foot-ball club—accompanied our great traveller. That represents more than the whole Canadians hockey team travelling to win the Stanley Cup, more than the world football champions.

Our Prime Minister is acting big, as representative of 21 million Canadians. Perhaps he takes himself for his great friend Mao Tse-tung who is at the head of the Chinese Communist government and represents over 800 million Chinese.

With such an escort, Mr. Speaker, with such a team of information jugglers accompanying him, striving to boost his popularity abroad, the Prime Minister liberally distributes Canadian taxpayers' money which he enjoys taking out of their pockets through application of white paper recommendations, resulting in permanent unemployment for thousands and increasing the burden of Canadians.

For instance, during this last trip, our Prime Minister has handed out gifts in all directions, wherever he set foot on the ground. The local press has fostered his publicity by proclaiming him a great friend of their countries unaware that here in Canada the unemployed and the poor were being driven deeper every day to despair. The international vision of our big chief has been well entertained to compensate for a continuous devaluation of his public image here in the minds of Canadians because it is becoming more obvious now and ever since 1968 that this man was brought to power through misleading publicity. In fact, the national image of our great leader is deteriorating and this in the eyes of the Canadian population is tentatively offset by an attempt at popularizing a kind of international superman picture.

Like the frog that wished to be as big as the bull and busted, our great Prime Minister left for Asia twenty-five days ago accompanied by a publicity team which was anxious to present him as the saviour of the Commonwealth, the man who would pull England back into the rank with his diplomatic touch and his athletic prowess, and convince her of the necessity of ending all arms sales to Rhodesia if the Commonwealth was to be saved, its existence being threatened, according to the newspapers.

The conference has now ended and England—

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, the hon. member for Lévis on a point of order.