

Government Organization

Ottawa so that it is close to departmental headquarters. Various problems will be worked out at this level when they arise. So I assure the hon. member that it is not our intention to rush in in any way until we are sure that we have the capability and the personnel to do the job.

The other side of this is that as opposed to the obligatory services to which I have referred there are those which are optional to the department, such as data processing, management consultant services and that sort of service, and we are proposing to look closely at the wisdom of making a charge for this sort of thing. In the case of data processing, that is now being done. This assumes, if the department has to pay for it, that it will not be irresponsible in its request, first of all, and look for more than it needs; second, it also has the beneficial effect, it seems to me, of keeping the services personnel on their toes, because in effect they must compete with private interests in many instances. So that these are the two areas where we have managed to put in the kind of control that the hon. member mentions.

I should now like to move on quickly through the remainder of my comments. The department will have two deputy ministers. There will be a Deputy Minister of Supply and a Deputy Minister of Services. Their functions will be roughly along the lines I have mentioned, though again we have perhaps a unique development, in terms of a department, in that we have a common service element within the department. On the administrative and personnel sides there is one official in each of these categories who is responsible jointly to the two deputy ministers. So there are, if you like, parallel structures on the administrative and personnel sides. There are common administrative and common personnel services, and the heads of these two services are responsible to both deputy ministers.

I think I have covered most of the points in which hon. members may be interested. Not only will I be interested to hear hon. members' comments, but I shall be pleased to do what I can to answer any questions they may have.

Perhaps I might have the indulgence of the committee to make one final point, though I do not think it flows in sequence from the bill. I should like to discuss the Mint very briefly, and I ask hon. members whether they would agree, having gone through the clauses of the bill dealing with the Department of

Supply and Services, to discuss the Mint immediately thereafter, since it is part of the responsibilities of the Minister of Supply and Services.

Mr. Stanfield: Has the minister really got a licence to print money?

Mr. Jamieson: I only wish I had. However, I must report that I have already been advised that there are no free samples.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, that has been denied.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That was the business you were in before you came here.

Mr. Jamieson: According to Lord Thomson. I am sure all hon. members are familiar with the story with regard to the Mint so I do not have to go into it in detail. It is proposed to establish the Mint as a Crown corporation in order to eliminate, among other things, the problem that arises from the need to move quickly to make up a coin shortage. At the present time the Mint must function in accordance with the normal provision of moneys through this house. The details are set out in the legislation, and again if there are any further questions hon. members may have I shall be more than pleased to answer them.

In summary, then, this is a very wise concept. It is virtually on all fours with the recommendation of the Glassco commission and brings into play many of his most important suggestions. The experience that we have had even in the last few months confirms the wisdom of the Glassco assessment, and I hope that as time goes by we will be able to prove it even more.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we all appreciate the very fine introduction by the minister of this new department. We have been able to follow his presentation very well. I am glad to learn that the government is adopting more of the Glassco commission's recommendations, and I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity of reminding the committee that one of the finest actions of the former Conservative government was to appoint the Glassco commission in 1958 or 1959. The commission published its report in 1962 and one of the suggestions it then made we are dealing with today. I am at a loss to know why it has taken so long to set up this new department. It is almost seven years

[Mr. Jamieson.]