

Government Organization

the principle of education and the federal government's responsibility in the field of education in a way that is not relevant. I suggest that he confine his remarks to the re-organization of the four new federal ministries.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, on this point of order may I draw attention to a clause of the bill which is so wide that the remarks of my colleague fall squarely within its four corners. I refer to clause 34 which begins on page 11 of the bill and which proposes amendments to the functions of the Department of the Secretary of State. In other words, my hon. friend is perfectly within the terms of the bill in talking about the Department of the Secretary of State. I should like to go further and draw your attention to one of the functions of the Department of the Secretary of State as contained in clause 34(4) (1)(d) at the bottom of page 11, which reads as follows:

(d) the encouragement of the literary, visual and performing arts, learning and cultural activities; and—

Surely if this bill is ascribing to the Department of the Secretary of State responsibilities in the field of learning, my hon. friend is a lot more in order than some other hon. members who have spoken today. I believe Your Honour should take note of that part of the bill before you rule out of order this discussion on learning, which I suggest is synonymous with education.

Mr. Prittie: In any case, Mr. Speaker, I will not take up very much more time as I wish to attend a meeting of the broadcasting committee tonight, which is another form of education in which we are involved at the present time.

The point I was trying to make here is that this office, which is apparently being established within the Department of the Secretary of State to deal with education, should administer the present federal responsibilities in this field and take the initiative in encouraging educational research in Canada.

I do not look upon such action as a threat to provincial autonomy. A great deal of research needs to be done and I envisage such an office as a centre where the results of education research in Canada could be gathered and distributed to provinces. Much can be learned about the technology of learning, teaching methods and many other things which would be useful to the provinces. I suggest this will not be learned in Canada unless a federal agency, which will have

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret).]

prestige and funds, is given stimulation to do this type of research. This could be of great assistance to the provinces. I see no interference at all on the part of a federal office of education in the operation of elementary and secondary schools. The province of Quebec is not the only province which would object to such interference. I believe the federal government will have quite enough to do in giving aid to universities and technical and vocational schools without getting into other fields of education.

Finally I want to say something about the United States. In that country they have a U.S. office of education which operates as a federal agency. I believe the constitutional position in respect of education in the United States is the same as in Canada, education being a matter under state jurisdiction. However as long ago as 100 years, in 1867 to be exact, this office of education was formed. It runs schools, such as Indian schools, for the federal government. It is a centre for research and for stimulating educational research. It also carries out the international functions of education for the federal government, the sort of thing that the external aid office of this country does.

• (8:10 p.m.)

I am very pleased that this first step has been taken. I regret only that while this re-organization was taking place the government did not go further and give this office more functions. Earlier the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) mentioned the fact that ministers of the government did not have very much responsibility because the civil servants were not allowing them to do very much. I would think that in the field in which I have been speaking the reluctance is on the part of the politicians and not the civil servants. I realize that in Canada this question of federal involvement in education has been a touchy, political one. Nevertheless we are involved at least to the extent of \$350 million, and we will be involved more in the future. Therefore we should make more successful arrangements to carry out that involvement.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, we have heard some pretty able speeches tonight. I was quite impressed with the speech of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton).

An hon. Member: We hope there is a good one coming up.