

*Government Organization*

Board. Rural development, which is part of the economic planning, comes under the minister of forestry and rural development. Housing, which is essential to any kind of planning for our consumers is under the Minister of Labour and naturally, of course, the Budget is under the Minister of Finance and other things which will concern expenditures are under the Treasury Board.

I am not objecting to the fact that these various fields are under different ministers or in different ministries, because obviously you cannot have them in one ministry. I do not wish anyone to think I am asking for that. What obviously emerges from this picture of the various fields and ministries is that there is an absolutely urgent need for some ministry whose specific and only job is to co-ordinate these various needs and co-ordinate the various objectives. Only thus can we have a complete picture of what is happening in the various departments and have a complete knowledge not only of the facts but of the policies from which the facts emerge, because often these are more important than the facts themselves.

Unless you have that you have exactly what you have now, a pretty planless situation. Nobody can persuade anybody who knows anything about planning that there is even an approach to planning now in this government and in this country. From the little I know of large corporations in Canada, one does not need to be a democratic socialist like myself to believe in planning. You do not have to be a democratic socialist to embrace this idea. Any large corporation which is well organized will have some department whose job is to co-ordinate the work of all the other departments. There will be a position, possibly that of vice president; there will be a vice president in charge of planning or a vice president in charge of co-ordination or a vice president in charge of expansion. Whatever name he may have, there will be someone responsible for co-ordinating the planning aspects of the various departments and of the whole corporation.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The absence of any recognition of this need in a modern society seems to me to be the greatest possible condemnation of the right hon. gentleman, the Prime Minister, and his advisers and associates. It shows in my opinion a complete lack of appreciation for the kind of co-ordination and machinery which a modern, complicated and difficult society requires.

The same thing is obviously true with regard to the Treasury Board, as suggested in the comments of the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas). The right hon. Prime Minister suggested today that it is intended that the president of the Treasury Board—I think that is his title under the bill—will be concerned with the day to day operations of that department. I hope that is true because we require the same thing in this regard as for general planning for the country. We need some central agency which will plan for actual personnel requirements and relate them and other requirements of other departments one to the other.

There are obvious misgivings about the way in which the law departments of the government are to be divided and we have some specific suggestions to make in this regard. The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) will deal with that subject.

If I may use this adverb, I think that is all I can "usefully" say. There would be no purpose in merely using up the time of the house to repeat myself. I conclude by summarizing that if this government had, as in my opinion it should have had, an appreciation of the reasons which require government re-arrangement and reorganization it would have done a great deal more than this bill proposes both as to the reorganization of the cabinet and the ministers and of the departments themselves. There would have been a definite step toward a department of economic affairs and planning and a department of consumer affairs for the protection of the consumer.

I sit down no more disillusioned than I have been before today because of the fact that when an approach has at last been taken toward the reorganization of our governing machinery the approach in this case, as in every other case, is timid, static, inadequate and barely starts the job of complete reorganization and even that in a halfhearted way.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-178, entitled, an Act respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, provides for changing the names of certain departments.

The Prime Minister has just stated that no new ministers will be appointed, that it is just a matter of transferring powers from one minister to another, and mostly a change in titles.