

probably not recognize the island where you got off when you finally arrived.

This illogical approach is really at the heart of the mess we have in our country today. It is the reason why, following the two by-elections just completed and in Gallup polls throughout this country, as well as with the excitement surrounding the entry into Canadian political life of a new and exciting leader, Canadians are demanding an election. They are tired of these old folks opposite who implement such illogical solutions to the pressing and important problems of the day. Obviously regional development, like science and development, needs a strong advocate in Parliament. These concerns that we have heard about will only be given proper attention if they are articulated by a Minister who does not treat them as part-time jobs.

● (1730)

The Prime Minister, in announcing the reorganization outlined by Bill C-152, bemoaned the fact that the existence of DREE allowed other Ministers to disregard regional concerns. This may have been the case, but it would have been easier to fix the problem had the succession of Liberal Ministers handled their jobs properly over the years rather than seriously neglecting their obligations.

Over the last decade, DREE spending was allowed to decline in real terms by 27 per cent. It went from 2 per cent of total Government expenditures to less than half of that over the past decade or so. These funding problems were magnified by an expansion of DREE's geographical mandate which went from only the least developed regions to almost all parts of the country. For obvious political reasons, the Government now finds it desirable to have more flexibility in the areas it can choose for DREE spending, as has become the case with DREE in recent years.

It is little wonder that the Prime Minister became dissatisfied with the progress his Government had made in regional development, especially since this watering down of the funding was combined with administrative sloppiness.

The question we must ask, Mr. Speaker, is what is the purpose of DREE or DRIE or any program of extending regional incentives to create new employment opportunities in order to overcome the problems and serious hardships that are faced by Canadians from one end of the country to the other. Is the Government concerned with genuine solutions to these problems or is it more concerned with the short-term political future? Are we merely seeing legislation designed to give ministerial discretion and discretion to Members on the Government side so that they can hand out these millions upon millions, indeed billions of dollars in order to favour their friends and perhaps stroke the palms of certain voters in certain electorates in order to save their parliamentary seats, or do they really and truly care about the genuine needs of the people across the country who are hurting?

As I said earlier and as I say now to conclude, Mr. Speaker, the polls indicate that the tactic is not working. The Canadian people have seen through it. As we move this Bill to committee, I think that it is only fair to conclude by serving notice

that amendments will be necessary and that as the Bill presently stands, Members on this side have a very difficult time supporting the Bill.

Government Organization Act, 1983

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to point out some of the inadequacies of this Bill because it is an abominable piece of legislation. Although the House of Commons has not approved this piece of legislation, the Government has gone ahead and acted upon it, not caring of course whether or not the Members of the House of Commons will support the Bill because it is confident, I suppose, that its majority will put the Bill through.

I would like to speak first for a moment on the part of this Bill that creates a new External Affairs Department and integrates the trade functions that were formerly with Industry, Trade and Commerce with External Affairs. It helps create a Minister of State for External Relations. That a country can have a Secretary of State for External Affairs and then have another Minister of State for External Affairs boggles the imagination. Surely the Minister who has the responsibility for foreign affairs should have the responsibility for external relations as well.

In addition, there is a Minister of State for International Trade. A three-headed monster has now been created in the Department of External Affairs. It has worked miserably. The administration of the Department is in a shambles. The morale of the diplomatic service which was already bad has been worsened. I would just like to point out that all of this has been done in the face of a Royal Commission report on conditions of foreign service that not for one minute recommended that such action be taken. It pointed out that there was a lamentable situation in the Department of External Affairs, it pointed out the difficulties in morale and discipline that had occurred in administration, and it revealed a very, very unsatisfactory situation in the Department of External Affairs.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) appointed the Royal Commissioner, Mrs. Pamela McDougall, a very distinguished Canadian woman, to study the foreign service and bring in a report. She brought the report in. The Prime Minister did not even have the courtesy to see her to discuss the report that he had commissioned through his Government. When she was questioned by the External Affairs Department several months later, she had not even until then seen the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) to discuss her report with him. I do not think that she has seen a Minister since. She saw some associate deputy ministers. There is a pack of associate deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers and so on in this Department that numbers in the hundreds. That is how this Royal Commissioner who revealed a very serious situation in the Department was treated.

As I understand it and according to an article in *The Globe and Mail* of this July, it takes 14 charts for the Department of External Affairs to explain what their new administrative structure is. These 14 charts had to be devised by Marcel Massé who inherited this mess when he became the under-secretary of state of the Department a few months ago. The