

Government Organization

our economic growth. Finally, I think the Canada Development Corporation has to be given the task and the means of increasing Canadian ownership and control of the Canadian economy.

• (4:20 p.m.)

I would like to know from the government where in this reorganization there is any machinery or program for implementing any of the recommendations of the Watkins report. The government has been very casual about that report. Here is a report which says that no other country in the world has so much of its economy owned and controlled outside its borders as has Canada. Here is a report which indicates that we are rapidly reaching the point of no return, that we are rapidly losing control of our economic affairs. Any person who studies history knows that inevitably political control always follows economic control.

What does the government propose to do about the Watkins report? What is there in this reorganization that will give to some department or agency of the government the responsibility for developing greater Canadian ownership of our economy and eventually regaining control of that part of our economy which is now in the hands of foreign investors? I can find nothing here that indicates the government intends to do anything at all about the recommendations of the Watkins report or about the dangers to which it drew the attention of the Canadian people.

We cannot object and we do not object to the government shifting around its departments and reallocating responsibilities to various ministers. That is the prerogative of the Prime Minister. But I have been disappointed, as I am sure many members have, and I think the people of Canada will be disappointed, that in his entire statement today the Prime Minister said nothing at all about the goals and objectives which this reorganization proposes to make possible. The Prime Minister talked about reorganization so that the departments could administer the laws. But surely departments have the task of doing something more than merely administering laws. Surely departments are tools to be used for the purpose of setting up and following certain definite social and economic programs. Surely the task of government is to set desirable goals and to organize and co-ordinate all the resources of government to make possible the attainment of those goals.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

There is nothing in what the Prime Minister said today which indicates that the government has any concept at all of what the role of government is in a modern society. I do not wonder that the Prime Minister closed by quoting the phrase that reorganization can be used as a method for creating the illusion of progress. I suspect that that is all this measure will turn out to be, an illusion of progress.

Unless the government, in the course of the discussion in committee of the whole, can give us some idea of what its goals and objectives are, I think we will be justified in concluding that this is merely another reorganization, that it is a playing around with departments and agencies which are in search of a policy, that this is a government with no clearly defined goals and with no concept of what it is trying to do or where it is going. I say, Mr. Speaker, that it is a sad day for Canada that a government starting a new term of parliament has nothing better to offer the Canadian people than this sterile reorganization of departments without any clear indication of what those departments are supposed to accomplish or what the Canadian people can expect them to achieve.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to take part in the debate on Bill No. C-173. This very thick bill contains all kinds of clauses, namely provisions to set up new departments.

Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to say that the new departments will certainly not straighten out the present economic situation, which is upside down and maladjusted, because the more we set up new departments, the more we increase government expenditures which make taxation necessary, and in turn, taxes reduce the purchasing power of the people.

To ensure the welfare of society, it has to be left with some purchasing power consistent with the economy and the gross national product. However, by setting up new departments, we upset the balance, we tax and overtax the people so that new departments can exist, new civil servants can be assured of salaries of \$15,000 to \$30,000 and new positions can be created for new university graduates. That will be the result of the new departments. They will not change anything to economic conditions. The more departments we establish, the more troubles we create in the economic area.