

*Government Organization*

appear? There is nothing new in that department. It embodies merely a collection of functions that already exist in various places elsewhere.

This is a point to ponder, as is also the fact that a wholesale reorganization could perhaps be effected, by the nomination of merely two or three departments in a resolution. I think there is a difficulty here. The resolution was bad on the face of it and it entrained the Chair unfortunately in a difficult decision about which there can be some doubt.

In this resolution I must say that I think an effort was being made and condoned to do something rather smart. This was perhaps the slick and professional way of doing it. As so often happens, things of this sort fall flat on their faces. It would have been far better to have been overly cautious—perhaps this point is arguable—and to have included the sixth department in the resolution.

With these few remarks I shall resume my seat and continue the discussion clause by clause as the occasion may arise.

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak for very long. I rise with two points in mind concerning the department of manpower and possibly also the Solicitor General's department. There may be other points that I should like to bring up at this time since we are discussing the reorganization of the government.

I agree with the reorganization as set out in this bill. Manpower will in future be treated on a more definitive basis. The problems concerning manpower are not unique in my constituency but prevail pretty well across the board. This is probably due to the fact that the former minister of labour could not follow through on all governmental projects. Possibly he did not have the watchful eye over governmental administration that he should have had, which again was due possibly to being overburdened with work.

I refer, for example to the scandalous procedures that have obtained particularly in the winter works program. If there were one man responsible for the labour and another paying for it there might be some chance of abolishing these scandalous procedures. This should have been done some time ago. By subdividing the tasks which ministers now have we might have got better results in places such as Notre Dame de la Guadeloupe where \$194,000 has been spent by the municipality without anything to show for it. There

[Mr. Lambert.]

is something terribly wrong here. This situation has been in existence for three or four years but apparently nothing can be done except wait for the province to make inquiries.

• (4:00 p.m.)

Yet under the Solicitor General's department we have a force, the R.C.M.P., which is concerned with justice. I say there is injustice here and in spite of the fact that there are provincial and municipal boundaries I still think the R.C.M.P. has the power to look into such procedures as I have mentioned, especially when the federal government is putting up funds derived from Canadian taxpayers. I ask the minister to look into this situation and not to wait until everything has been covered up. A provincial organization in Sherbrooke, trying to find out whether people had been receiving the basic salaries to which they were entitled, got access to the books during the past three or four years and has publicly stated that the situation amounts to a complete mess.

And this is only one case. There are many others across this country where the federal government must rely on action being taken by the provinces. While we are discussing the reorganization of the government we should at least concede that when the federal government is spending money in different parts of the country it should be entitled to find out by means of its own where that money is going. I am not concerned now with provincial funds. They are the responsibility of the province alone. But I do think it is our responsibility to know where federal money is being spent.

If the minister had been given the power I suggest two or three years ago he would have found out by now through his assistants that people were not being paid although their names were on the list in connection with winter works projects. In other cases they received cheques, endorsed them and sent them back although they were not doing any work in connection with the projects. This has been going on for four years.

Let me tell hon. members something about this municipality which might open their eyes. Within a year and a half there have been seven suicidal hangings. There is something wrong there, and if the provincial government does not look into the situation then the R.C.M.P. should. The Criminal Code is involved to the extent that there is fraud. The federal government is concerned because