

Glassco Commission Report

they should be fair comment on what has been announced in the statement made. We are not into a sort of short term debate on this particular question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to say that the comment is improper, but may I say that this is not an opportunity for a short run debate, and this applies to original statements made on motions.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On a point of order, your observations may be correct but, with great respect, I would suggest to Your Honour that these observations should have first been directed to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the remarks I have made have indicated my thinking in this regard, and I have needed no reminder from the hon. member. I have noticed a tendency of late in this regard, but I think with the appropriate attention and good will of hon. members we will come back to what is the standard practice in this house.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that I did not intend and was not intending to indulge in anything that could possibly be interpreted as a political speech. I was about to suggest, however, that this government, which has been in office for some five and half years, has been accused of being indecisive, uncertain and incompetent, and I suggest that the Glassco commission has produced some damning evidence to this effect.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am indeed surprised at the hon. member that after the observations I made—

Mr. Starr: He has a low political mind.

Mr. Speaker:—he should have so quickly departed from the spirit of motions.

Mr. Robichaud: Why was the Prime Minister allowed to do so?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that one sin on top of another compounding the difficulties will improve the situation.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, the Glassco commission has made some impressive estimates of the savings that could be achieved through better organization and the use of more modern techniques. The Prime Minister has told us that it will be the responsibility of the Minister without Portfolio to take these matters in charge and—these were not his words but I think this is the impression the Prime Minister gave—to drive them through to some conclusion. The Minister without Portfolio in his former capacities has had some experience along these lines, and if I was not afraid that you would think I was transgressing, Mr. Speaker, I would say that

[Mr. Speaker.]

in these other spheres he has usually corrected things by effecting a change in management. The question that people will ask themselves in this instance is whether it is likely that this government, even if it is assisted by the new Minister without Portfolio, has the necessary energy, drive and determination to accomplish these reforms.

(Translation):

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of our group—

Mr. Rouleau: An expert in administration.

Mr. Marcoux:—I wish to congratulate the members of the Glassco commission for the thorough study they have made of the public service and the government organization generally.

I was surprised to hear, a while ago, that only the Gordon commission had apparently brought forth proposals which were quite adequate, while, on the other hand, it appears that some exception is being taken to recommendations—

Mr. Rouleau: That is not what was said.

Mr. Marcoux:—made by other commissions. In fact, if the hon. member for Davenport did not say it, he implied that some of the Gordon commission's recommendations should have been adopted a long time ago. That is why it does seem strange to hear about one commission having been quite good and another much less so.

In view of the fact that, generally speaking, socialism is a very large government organization which is constantly spreading, I am convinced that the members of our group will support most of the points brought up by the Glassco commission.

Moreover, I feel that, within this parliament of minorities, all groups are united in saying that they wish to make government services more efficient and more economical for the Canadian people.

(Text):

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, perhaps with greater appropriateness than the hon. member for Davenport and probably, I might add plaintively, because my party has never been in power—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

An hon. Member: And never will.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, hon. members can make any comments they like, but there are situations where one may be proud of the contribution one has made to one's country without the evil that some people have been guilty of in power. I join hon. members and