

*Government Organization*

has given us a brilliant summary of the general philosophy of the Department of Supply and Services.

First of all, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the new Minister of Supply and Services. If he brings to his job the same vigour and spirit with which he introduced the bill, we shall, I think, have to commend him on his work when he tables his first annual report.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the debate unduly. I do wish to make some contribution to it, following in the minister's footsteps, and it is for that reason that I wish very humbly to draw his attention to a point which we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste consider of the utmost importance.

• (4:10 p.m.)

I hope he will be able to foretell all the consequences likely to follow the creation of the new department, in connection with as fundamental and as important a subject as bilingualism.

Mr. Chairman, Bill C-173 is broken down into 15 parts and involves several departments. Whether they relate to the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce or to the Department of Supply and Services, amazing provisions are to be found therein, and I do not so much blame the ministers as those who conceived and drafted this bill.

I do not understand why the very people who are planning to renovate the organization of Canada, to streamline it, to modernize it, to adapt it to the modern concepts of management, based on the guidelines and findings of the Glassco Royal Commission on Government Organization, did not think of incorporating to the bill provisions relating to bilingualism. That is the point on which I wanted to draw the minister's attention, and I shall give him only one example to illustrate what I mean.

On December 3 last, I put on the order paper question No. 936 which reads as follows:

Among the employees earning \$17,000 or more per year—

Why that figure of \$17,000 per year? Because, according to the administrative criteria of the government, civil servants become senior officials when they reach approximately that salary.

Among the employees earning \$17,000 or more per year in the Department of Defence Production, how many are (a) Canadians whose mother tongue is French (b) Canadians whose mother tongue is English (c) others

Chinese, Japanese, Ukrainian, etc.

(d) bilingual?

Here is the answer I have been given, and I quote:

- (a) Four;
- (b) Seventy-one;
- (c) One;
- (d) Twelve.

Now that a new department is proposed, the Department of Supply and Services, my first question is the following: As far as bilingualism is concerned, will the same discrimination, unfairness and injustice prevail as in the former Department of Defence Production?

Mr. Chairman, the matter has the utmost importance. I do not wish to flout the minister, because I know he can cope with the situation and give us, at the end of the debate, some explanations or, at least, the assurance that he will have several bilingual counsels at his service. In any event, when I conclude my brief remarks, I could make a few suggestions, after which he could express his opinion.

Mr. Chairman, I am afraid the establishment of those new departments will only amount to a change of names. The administration is improved, and perhaps made more efficient and up-to-date, but there is no solution to the fundamental problem of the federal administration which on the whole is Anglo-Saxon and in which there are no qualified French Canadians since the opportunities are not the same for French-speaking and the English-speaking public servants.

And I will quote another example, Mr. Chairman, to show the seriousness of that problem. On November 21 last, I put on the order paper a question related to the Polymer Corporation Ltd., which then was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence Production. My question was identical to that which I quoted a moment ago, except that it concerned the Polymer Corporation Ltd. Here it is:

Among the employees earning \$17,000 per year or more...how many are (a) Canadians whose mother tongue is French (b) Canadians whose mother tongue is English (c) others (d) bilingual?

Here is the answer which I received, and I quote:

- (a) The mother tongue of 2.5 per cent of the employees is French.
- (b) The mother tongue of 95 per cent of the employees is English.
- (c) The mother tongue of 2.5 per cent of the employees is neither French nor English.
- (d) 25.6 per cent of the employees are bilingual.