

*Government Organization*

his thundering peroration in which he insisted upon the respect we should show the officers of the R.C.M.P. On that score, Mr. Speaker, I can but share the opinion of the hon. member. On the other hand, I also believe we should bear, not only the R.C.M.P. and its officers, but also the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada and all other judges, equal if not even greater respect.

Mr. Speaker, now that we are studying the clauses of Bill C-178, and after hearing the short but eloquent speech made by the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain), which I found most interesting, I have come to the following conclusion: an over-all reform is required.

I fully agree. Not only an administrative reform, but also a reform of our parliamentary system. Nothing proves to date that we have the most perfect, the best system in the world. It might be timely to ask ourselves questions and to see what reforms might be brought in.

I know some are anxious to respect traditions; they always plead that argument, dreading what changes are required.

The British system has brought multiple bounties; but, Mr. Speaker, we are living in North America, and we must face the North American realities. In view of those realities, we must be able to adapt our institutions, both governmental and parliamentary.

Since we are dealing with the reorganization of the departments, I would like to make a few remarks and I would be happy if the members of the cabinet and the members of the house studied them very attentively. To pursue the same line of thinking, namely that we are living in a North American environment, I would be very anxious to see the Canadian authorities study the American system and learn from it.

As mentioned a little earlier by the hon. member for Bow River, I think that in the United States the ministers are appointed instead of elected. There is no evidence that that it is not a good system which could be very effective in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

What is the position of our ministers today? They must have three fundamental qualities. First of all, they must be administrators because they are heads of departments and, as such, they must know how to administer. Second, they must be parliamentarians, and then God knows how much precious time they lose here in this house, especially when they must face an opposition which is fundamentally obstructionist.

Mr. Speaker, the ministers must first of all be administrators. Second, they must be parliamentarians, but nothing tells us that a good administrator is also, as a corollary, a good parliamentarian. The contrary is often true; those who have the least to say, who do not have any ability in a parliamentary world, make the best administrators.

Under our system, in Canada, to be head of a department, to be chief administrator or to head a department, one must also be a parliamentarian.

And third, the third quality just as fundamental which the man who is called upon to head a department must also possess is that of being good at election time because whomsoever may be called upon to assume such responsibilities, he must face the electorate, he must get elected; then, he must spend a lot of energy to reach the position for which he would be highly qualified, without having to go through the whole process which constitutes, in several cases, an obstacle which is hard to overcome.

Administrators on one hand, members of parliament, elected men on the other. We have seen in this house ministers of superior calibre who could have played an extraordinary part, rendered immeasurable services to their country, their native land, but precisely they did not have parliamentary ability, they have not been able to devote all their energies, all their talents to the development of our country.

It is for this reason that we must take the situation in serious consideration so that the major reform mentioned by the member for Trois-Rivières be looked into and implemented in the near future because we, of the young generation, are very sceptical about the quality, the merit and the efficiency of our institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I am of the opinion that certain reservations can be made to the bill before us; this proves that there are no fanatics on this side of the house, even sitting on the government side. For instance, I read this in Section 13:

The duties, powers and functions of the Minister of Manpower extend to and include all matters over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction, not by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the government of Canada, relating to

- (a) the development and utilization of manpower resources in Canada;
- (b) employment services; and
- (c) immigration.