

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Answers given to many questions asked in this House bear little resemblance to the facts. We are being fooled day by day. What has happened to Parliament? I know that some of my colleagues were all for rules changes. The rules were to be changed; committees were to be set up. I said, "If you do this, you are going to place Parliament in a straitjacket; and that is where it is. Your Honour is not at fault. Your Honour must take the rules as they are. Standing Order 43 today is a joke because, on every matter on which a motion is made, those sitting opposite say, "No". Consent is not given. The doors are closed. It is a bigger joke when members ask for the production of papers.

An hon. Member: The government transfers these questions for debate.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Instead of having a vote, as was the case in the past, the government transfers these matters for debate. What does this mean? It means the motion is buried, without embalming. In other words, the thing is no more, gone. The people opposite are making a gigantic farce of Parliament.

I have been here, as I have said, a long while. I saw Mackenzie King in action and he was often condemned; but Mackenzie King trusted Parliament. He listened to the views of Parliament when legislation was brought in and changes were suggested. Colonel Ralston, Chubby Power and other great parliamentarians like Ernest Lapointe would agree to changes. That does not apply to the government today. They say in effect, "This is what you will do. You can talk, but we are not going to change." That is the reason, sir, that Parliament today is losing its prestige and significance. There is nothing we in the opposition can do; there is nothing left for us to do. That supine majority that bows before the Prime Minister in obeisance and adoration sees dangling before it these wonderful prizes. Where has independence gone?

I shall conclude with a very serious appeal. In this institution, as I mentioned earlier, some ministers understand Parliament. I hope that they will stand up and save this institution from the obloquy with which it has been visited by this government, a government that seems determined to carry out the views of Machiavelli. The Prime Minister was once asked, "Who is your favourite politician?" He said, "Machiavelli". The next time I speak I shall quote from Machiavelli, because the comparison is tremendously revealing.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-207 which is now before us may be related to Bill C-211 entitled "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1971" of which section 2 reads in part as follows, and I quote:

2. From and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, there may be paid . . . and being the aggregate of:

- (a) the total of the amounts . . . as contained in Schedule A \$261,312,756.00;
- (b) the total of the amounts . . . as contained in Schedule B \$204,000,002.00.

Government Organization Act, 1970

These sums of money are especially intended to allow the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to fulfill the promises he made to some hon. members of his party, before the last electoral campaign, in order to convince them to run for re-election.

It was necessary to promise to some of these gentlemen parliamentary secretaryships and to others opportunities for being appointed to a position inside the cabinet. Promises were made so they would decide to run for re-election. And now the time has come for the Prime Minister to carry out his promises.

Bill C-207 will enable the Prime Minister to carry out his election promises but, in order to swing it, a lot of things have been carefully included in this bill; those provisions are not bad in themselves, but they are more or less relevant to the problem under consideration. This new omnibus bill tends to implement the Prime Minister's promises or those of the Liberal organization.

As for the Liberal candidates who took the risk of running, their act of bravery will be rewarded, because the bill will allow almost everyone of them to get a position created under this bill which provides for most interesting remunerations. This is the most important point: five new ministers will be appointed; they will also be paid as such. Sixteen Liberal members, at least, will be appointed Parliamentary Secretaries, which will bring them an allowance of \$4,000 in addition to their indemnity. Remuneration is also provided for all the committee chairmen.

Thanks to this new bill, I trust all Liberals will be happy because they will be able to get additional remuneration. I trust that with all this consideration on the part of the Prime Minister, we will hear no more about dissatisfaction within the Liberal party; and that all the Liberal members will be obedient, faithful, and follow religiously the orders of their big chief. I am convinced that disputes within the Liberal caucus will cease for a while.

This bill provides for the setting up of a department of the environment; that makes me laugh because, at the same time as just about everyone is being rewarded in the Liberal party, a pollution department is being created. Some wits might say: Pollution is created, first; then, a department is set up to fight it. There are several types of pollution: water, air, noise, scenic, political and financial.

As a rule, up until now, water and air pollution have been most talked about, but the most important one, which Crétistes have always fought, is financial pollution. Despite good intentions to fight all kinds of pollution, if there is no war against financial pollution, all other forms will remain.

To eliminate water and air pollution, to fight noise, to preserve our landscapes, money is needed. The Department of the Environment created by this bill will spend public funds to create commissions for the study of problems. In order to fight the various kinds of pollution, finance will have to serve municipalities and provinces, so they will be able to take the physical, necessary and