

these things out. But over there in the departments, in the public service generally, I suggest that this bureaucracy is going to add to the confusion. Nobody will quite know who is in charge. The picture will be that there is the Minister of Veterans Affairs, there is the Minister of National Health and Welfare, there is the Minister of National Defence, there is the Solicitor General and head of the RCMP, there is the Minister of Employment and Immigration, there is the Secretary of State, and these are all ministers concerned with programs and problems affecting people. They think they are producing the ideas, but no, their ideas get nowhere unless they get the okay of the super minister, the Minister of Justice with his new title of "Minister of State for Social Development".

Again I say that I am not worried about him as an individual—he is too nice a guy for me to worry about him—but who is busier over there than he is already? He is so busy with federal-provincial relations that he can hardly touch his work as Minister of Justice, and now the government give him another job, that of being a super minister over all the departments and functions that deal with social development. Again I say I think it is a gross mistake. It is adding bureaucracy to bureaucracy, and instead of advancing the cause of social development it will slow it down.

So, Mr. Speaker, because I do not think we would be as far ahead of where we were in 1960 as we are today if we had had this organization, I dread how slow progress will be in the next 20 years, and I hope the House will have the intelligence to say no to this resolution.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to participate in the debate on this motion to set up the Ministry of State for Social Development. No one can argue that there is a correlation between economic development and social progress or between justice in legal terms and justice in social terms, for without justice in social terms there is no justice.

I have listened to the interventions of my colleagues on the other side of the House as well as the intervention of the minister himself, and I want to congratulate the minister for bringing forth this motion today. I was rather intrigued by the lesson in history which we had from the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) but I want to compliment him on what appears to be a well-developed social conscience.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): I understand that the next speaker from his party to follow him will be the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), and I do not think that that member has to prove his sensitivity to social justice to anyone in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): I hope that the attitudes they display will permeate their entire caucus and

Social Development Ministry

that the party will in fact support the establishment of a Ministry of State for Social Development.

I was also intrigued by the comments of the venerable member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). However, it seems to me that his comments are a classic case of throwing out the baby with the bath water. Rather than being an impediment to the development of social programs and social justice in this country, it is indeed time we had a ministry whose responsibility it is to advance in a correlated manner the social development of the citizens of the nation. I do not believe that that can be accomplished adequately so long as all the various departments which the hon. member named are working without a proper kind of correlation among them. Rather than seeing this development as one that will place another obstacle in the way of obtaining funds from the public treasury for the development of necessary social programs, I look upon it as giving those departments, in cabinet and in the Treasury Board, another powerful advocate to promote and defend their cause and to see that the funds expended by the federal government are expended wisely to promote the social development of less advantaged individuals in our society.

I noticed also that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has sneaked in his normal derogatory remarks about members' pensions and expenses when he was talking about the increases in old age security. That does not surprise me.

Miss Jewett: What was derogatory?

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): I was surprised by the way he did it, because as an advocate of the rights of women and of children, which he has always been, it is surprising for him to think that the spouses and the children of members of Parliament should suffer because of the fact that we are here. But it seems to me that that is what he said. Also, he neglected to mention that today senior citizens have the advantage of having the Canada Pension Plan, which was not in effect in 1960.

Mr. Knowles: So have members of Parliament.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): He also neglected to mention how the salaries and pensions of those working in the private sector, and even of those who work in the public sector of our nation, have increased since 1960. I suggest to him that there is more correlation between the benefits of members of Parliament and those of members of the provincial legislatures than there is between those in the private sector and those in the public sector.

Mr. Benjamin: What is the point of that? You just lost me.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Les, you were away for awhile and you have just come back. Catch up before you ask questions.

An hon. Member: Explain.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): I do not intend to speak for a long time.