

Government Organization

taking place. I do not believe it has really been denied by anybody. The only thing about which we disagree is the means or methods by which to combat it successfully.

Before allowing the section to pass we should like to hear, if we may, from the Minister of Justice and from the Solicitor General how they propose to work. How will the two offices be drawn together in the carrying out of the functions of the Minister of Justice if there is to be a lack of co-ordination with the force by placing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under this separate jurisdiction? This is a very important matter if we are going to make a serious attempt to deal with organized crime. I am not talking about syndicated crime which is a far more difficult and dangerous problem. In so far as organized crime in Canada is concerned, we can bring in police commission reports to show its existence and the extent of its influence. If you are going to make a serious attempt to deal with organized crime, how are you going to be successful by separating the Minister of Justice from the very agency he needs to investigate, to collect evidence and to carry out this important function?

It seems to me that the step being taken is so serious we cannot and will not allow the clause to pass without some extended comments by the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General telling us why this method has been chosen and what it is hoped to accomplish by it. I hope the members of the government, even though we want the bill to pass and do not intend to hold it up, will not start shouting "question, question", because this is an extremely important and, to us, dangerous step. Before we consent we want to hear at some length the reason for it.

Mr. Pennell: Mr. Chairman, before referring to the arguments raised by the hon. member for Danforth I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the generous remarks of the hon. member for Carleton. I can assure the committee that I harbour no false hopes in my breast that I could even approach, much less match, the achievements of a former solicitor general, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen.

It is my respectful submission, Mr. Chairman, that the divisions proposed in this bill are both reasonable and necessary. From time to time, my hon. friends across the floor, in a critical sense, have used the phrase, "the trifurcation of the department". This plausible catch-phrase really conceals the realities of the situation. I want to point out the basic fact that the Department of Justice is not

really being divided by the allocation of duties. The Department of Justice has dealt, and still will, with the problems relating to legislative draftsmanship, the conduct of government litigation, criminal prosecutions and the preparation of legal opinions for the government and departments of government. These have always been the main functions of the Department of Justice. In other words, the Department of Justice will remain the law firm for the government of Canada.

• (4:50 p.m.)

The various other agencies, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the penitentiaries service and the parole board, have from time to time become attached to the Department of Justice. They are, of course, obviously involved in the general area of the Department of Justice but they are removed in function from the department itself. They are, I would remind the house, branches which are for the most part self-administering. They have their own experts and come under the direction of the deputy minister of justice only in a very loose and general way. So that the Department of Justice, if this bill carries, will still remain a department which requires the services of lawyers practising law in the traditional sense.

I must say, Mr. Chairman, that the decisions which have been brought about are ones which we feel the circumstances demand. The war against crime and also the penitentiaries and parole services demand and deserve the attention of a separate and special ministry. I might remind the house of the fact that since the duties were transferred on January 1 to the office of the Solicitor General, steps have been taken to step up the efficiency of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. With respect, Mr. Chairman, I would bring to the attention of the committee that in the year 1955 the total budget for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was \$35.6 million. For the current fiscal year, under representations made by the office of the Solicitor General, the figure has risen to a new high of \$86.6 million, which is substantially more than double the figure ten years ago.

May I also say that a related reason for the removal of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from the direction of the Minister of Justice is the fact that there has been an enormous increase in the duties of the Minister of Justice. This has seemed to escape the attention of many members of the house. I would put before you, Mr. Chairman, the fact