

legislation, I am not disposed to quarrel with that. The right hon. gentleman said that the object of the creation of this new department was three-fold: First, the allotment of despatches; secondly, the creation of a history of each subject to which reference can be made from time to time; and thirdly, the preparation of a draft despatch in reply to any communication from abroad. These were the three objects, and I regard them as very necessary and desirable objects. But I have yet to see that it is necessary to create a new department for that purpose . . . If, in the Commonwealth of Australia, where they have only eight departments, and where the Minister of External Affairs is the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, they can get along without a Secretary of State, it does seem to me a piece of unnecessary machinery in this country to have, not only a Department of Secretary of State, but a new Department of External Affairs as well. . . . What you want is not more machinery, but better organization. . . . The creation of something that you will call a Department of External Affairs will amount to nothing. It is the organization which you must create for the purpose of coping with this work that will count in the end. I am absolutely unconvinced by anything in the argument put forward by the Prime Minister and by the Secretary of State that the mere creation of this department is going to advance you one single step." (1)

(1) Ibid. p. 2002