

Establishment of New Departments

Our attitude on this question of manpower is clear, precise and even seems categorically opposed to the new manpower policy announced, not only on the part of the province of Quebec but of British Columbia and probably other provinces, for I have not had the opportunity to discuss it with all the ministers of labour of the other provinces.

Thus the central government decides, by itself and perhaps before the end of its last meeting or before holding another meeting with the ministers of labour of the ten provinces, to define a national manpower policy comprising regional and provincial economic policies. Unfortunately, as in many other fields, the central government is acting unilaterally. It asserts itself, and when it has had its way there will still be pressures and dissatisfaction in the country and nothing leading to the national understanding wanted by all. The steps leading to it are not taken in this house.

Here again, certain initiatives are taken without the consent of the provincial representatives in order to establish Canadian policies which will please everyone.

Mr. Chairman, this is another example of intervention, centralization and bullying with regard to the aspirations of the provinces. I hope that before presenting a bill, those responsible for the new legislation—and today I speak of manpower only—will, as the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) suggested, refer the question to a joint parliamentary committee, even if this delays by a few months the application of a bill.

When a bill is introduced here, it should take into account the aspirations of the provinces and the particular characteristics of a certain province. There is no iron curtain, there is no problem. It is only a matter of reaching an agreement first and not always imposing policies or upsetting those who have special problems. That gives rise to tensions, dissatisfaction and creates islands of separatism, dislocation, balkanization, whatever you call it.

Do we want a united country, a united Canada, not only on the cultural level but on the economic level? Well, it is time, with regard to that bill on manpower, not to proceed quickly but to refer the question to a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons and to consult representatives of the provinces—particularly those which show some reservations about some areas of national manpower and which could create about that repercussions in all the fields

[Mr. Allard.]

where there is misunderstanding and incomprehension—in order to create a mosaic or intelligent policies, accepted not only by one provincial capital up to the third provincial capital, but from Halifax to Vancouver, in order to make our country a united country, to put an end to the disputes, discussions and struggles on constitutional matters.

It is very simple, Mr. Chairman, let us proceed to a necessary reform of a constitution which is only an old piece of paper dating from 1867 and which, probably as far as three quarters of its provisions are concerned, has no meaning whatsoever in 1966.

That is what has been refused here for three months to a great number of members of the Social Credit, the Ralliement Cr ditiste, the New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative party, and to some members of the party in office. Some ministers go to Toronto and elsewhere and say what we are now openly saying in this house.

To smooth over the difficulties, it is essential to unite Canadians on the cultural as well as the economic level. A bill dealing with the creation of a company of young Canadians will be introduced shortly. Well, once again we will see interference in fields of provincial jurisdiction.

[English]

The Chairman: Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Kindt: Having spent many years of my life working with corporations in order to improve the efficiency of their operations, and having worked in a similar capacity with government organizations, perhaps I might be pardoned for speaking on the resolution before us. This resolution is, I believe, of a type which is important and which could be made productive, as far as the smooth working of the government of Canada is concerned.

I was especially interested in the remarks made by the hon. member for Carleton. It was mentioned by him, and by other speakers earlier, that some 26 departments of government are now contemplated.

• (7:30 p.m.)

There is no question of doubt in the mind of any sound thinking administrator that 26 departments are too many. I do not intend to reiterate the words used by others to describe the overlapping and slitting up, but the