

*Government Organization*

want a just society and a sound economy we must at all costs inquire into the insurance business as well as into many others. There is no need to kneel to the insurance companies and trusts which generally take advantage of the people, without saying a word. Nothing is said because many members of parliament are associated with them. Many are drawing large dividends from insurance companies which up to now have always succeeded in protecting themselves and have always found a way to outwit the Treasury. Yet, they should not be better treated than others; on the contrary, they should be dealt with in the same way as all other enterprises in the country.

Mr. Chairman, once again, I ask parliament to appoint a committee to enquire into all aspects of our insurance companies, so as to be in a position to intervene should there be anything there that is not according to Hoyle. It is now six o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

[English]

Progress reported.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY, AND OTHER NEW DEPARTMENTS

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill C-173, respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters relating or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

**The Chairman:** It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At 6 p.m. the committee took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Mr. Chairman, I had taken some time prior to five o'clock in an attempt to bring to the attention of the congenial minister the concern I have over the method of allocating service and purchase contracts. I understand that tenders do not have to be called for construction contracts if an emergency exists and the cost is less than \$15,000. If I am incorrect about that, I am sure the

[Mr. Latulippe.]

minister will correct me. Although I agree emergencies may arise in certain circumstances, I believe that all too often, as is apparent from previous cases we have witnessed throughout the country, they are a figment of the imagination. Departments decide that an emergency does exist and they allocate a contract without public tendering.

I should like to impress upon the minister the importance of doing away with preferred or representative lists and using instead the widely accepted procedure of tendering by public advertisement. In this way the new Department of Supply and Services, the other departments of the government as well as the elected representatives will not be subjected to the type of criticism we hear so often today, namely, patronage. I would expect the minister to make sure that the regulations are clearly defined so there will be no likelihood that the type of "pork barrel" situations that have arisen in the past will become commonplace.

One matter that does bother me considerably with regard to these preferred lists is how the persons or firms who are on these lists qualify. Perhaps the minister would clarify this at the end of the debate. Surely, qualification should not depend on the particular government that is in power at the time. I am sure that the group to be established to review the situation continually will take this question into consideration.

As I mentioned before five o'clock, the proposal to establish a group to review the approach taken by the various departments to obtain information, with a view to improving the quality of such information, is a step in the right direction and one that we can support. However, I think the minister must set guidelines which really mean something; and if he is able to do that he ought to be commended. On the other hand, if this is another government department only, and if it cannot bring about closer liaison between other departments of government, there is no purpose in establishing it.

• (8:10 p.m.)

There is no sense in having a freeze in public service hirings if the government, as seems evident from increased allocations in this year's budget, is to seek the services of outside consulting firms. I believe that under this minister we ought to develop expertise within the department and make possible the provision of specialized services for every department of government, thus, bringing