

one in this country. These matters should have been discussed frankly in the House.

The hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) who spoke before me referred to the dream he has. I will give you mine. I do not know how this dream could be brought about except through the agreement of all parties. I should like to see, as a result of government reorganization, some machinery established which would enable us to have an all party caucus which would meet once a month. Since we are all *prima donnas*, to a greater or lesser extent, I would want the press to be excluded from these meetings. Thus, we would have an opportunity once a month to appeal to members in all parties without our remarks getting into the press and without trying to influence the people back home. We could speak with as much confidence as one could expect in this bear pit about matters on which we will agree.

One such matter, for example, could be the full employment of our young people. We could discuss the problem and thus find ways of shortening the discussion in the House. We could discuss the expenditures necessary for training facilities and for leadership, for all the things that would be necessary to overcome not only the problem at present but as it might develop in the future in view of automation and outside competition in a highly industrialized and aggressive business world. For this we would need the co-operation of everyone. Is it too much to ask that we meet once a month, if necessary behind closed doors because we are not sufficiently mature to do it in the open, to discuss matters which would benefit the people of Canada as well as the rest of the world on which we do not really require any debate?

In this way, we could eliminate the bottleneck which we encounter here on all matters which do not require debate and which are very serious. It seems to me that we would then not have to wait for a place on the Order Paper. Once a month we could donate an hour or two of our time. This would not necessarily be compulsory but we could say "I was there and I told the government how far I was willing to go along the road of co-operation." This has not been done since the days of Burke and Pitt—more is the pity. In the last 200 years we have solved some of the problems which they faced in those days. In the days of Pitt and Burke—the great men of the English parliamentary system—there was child labour. Children, some of them with tuberculosis, were washing bottles 18 hours a day in garrets.

The problem we have now in Canada is sharing too much wealth. Some of us are so drunk with our own wealth that we are willing to sit back and say that we can stand 10 per cent unemployment. Perhaps I understand the situation because I lived for a good many years of my life among the 10 per cent who did not have too much. I did not have a two car garage. I lived in a world where one did not always have enough to feed the children and one had to have the scars of labour on one's hands. I think that the reason this institution is still working is that we can still stand up and debate here. I hope it is not too late to get through at least to the

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backbenchers in this House and to say that we all agree on certain matters. If we are going to use 35 ministers to do what 30 people are able to do, let us hope that the 35 will work more effectively than the government has done in the past.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, it would be assuming a lot to say that, should this bill be passed by the House, I might become the first Parliamentary Secretary of the new Department of Environment. Of course I would be honoured to assume that responsibility and to serve the government and the minister in that capacity.

I support readily Bill C-207 respecting the organization of the government of Canada and the setting up of a new department—some have called it a superdepartment—which will assume tremendous responsibilities with regard to the management and protection of our environment.

I endorse this bill because it has become necessary to place under one authority most of the responsibilities relating to environmental quality. It would be easy to believe that this new department has been made necessary because public opinion has been requesting it in recent years. Obviously, its establishment was suggested in the recommendation of various task forces, by several hon. members and even by editorialists.

However, let us not oversimplify like the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) who said and I quote:

● (4:20 p.m.)

The government knows that the public are distressed and alarmed about the pollution of our air, water and soil. It knows that the public are clamouring for action. So the government has decided that this is a popular issue and that it must do something to appease the public clamour. The government's solution is to appoint a minister to deal with this matter. But, Mr. Speaker, the mere establishment of a bureaucracy under one minister will not in itself cope with the problem of increasing pollution.

Mr. Speaker—as I said a few moments ago—this is political small talk. The government is obviously aware of the expectations of the public and knows it must take them into consideration in due course. Creation of the Department of Environment became necessary because of the need for the federal and provincial governments to control pollution through efforts which should logically result in setting up an organization responsible for a good number of the serious and widespread pollution problems that affect air, water, land, in a word, for everything that moves and blows.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of delivering a lecture on the quality of the environment. It is true that I would have a whole series of opinions to express and I know that all hon. members will not necessarily agree with me. We know by experience that their opinions vary easily. In any case, there will be other chances for me to speak on the subject of environment.