

*Government Organization*

warmly congratulate the new minister. We know how energetic, how dynamic he is and how much he is concerned over the lot of the underprivileged in our society. We therefore are confident that his work will be successful and that he will be able to meet this terrific challenge.

Some will say: But were you not among those who favoured the establishment of this department? Of course, we were, but it was the right hon. Prime Minister himself (Mr. Trudeau) who was to be at its head, because only the Prime Minister could co-ordinate the efforts of all departments in order to reach the ultimate objective, which is to re-evaluate the underprivileged areas, and to give every department and every crown corporation their share of responsibilities in reaching this goal.

I am still endorsing the same idea. I think that everybody will recognize that there is such a close relationship, such an identity of views between the present head of this department and the right hon. Prime Minister himself that this co-ordination, this work—I should say this joint effort—in order to put to use all departments, all crown corporations will be done in an harmonious way and will ensure to the responsible minister the necessary support to reach his objectives.

I endorse the opinion of a spokesman of the New Democratic Party in that I am afraid the efforts of this very department, will prove useless unless there exists an over-all planification.

Several economists, and particularly those attached to the Economic Council of Canada, will say that planning is impossible, even at the national level, unless the United States themselves co-ordinate their efforts with ours towards such objectives, so great is our economic dependence on our neighbour.

I dare hope that the Prime Minister, during his forthcoming visit to the United States, can, jointly with the president of the United States, ensure such essential co-ordination of both countries' economies, for the benefit of our business, our trade and, by way of consequence, our social status.

The spokesman for the Ralliement Crétiste dealt with the need for such a department and suggested, at the same time, a lowering of taxes. I can hardly reconcile both philosophies. Of course—and I am convinced the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) admits it—the government squeezes money out of taxpayers in order to redistribute it and restore the balance between individuals and classes through equalization

payments. Between collection and redistribution there is no miraculous inflating, because the money supply would have to be increased so that more money than is collected could be distributed.

With regard to war against poverty, and undoubtedly that department will seek to carry out part of this project, there must be an all-out effort. But the public is often led to believe that in wartime the necessary money was found and that the same measures should be taken to fight poverty.

● (5:30 p.m.)

However, the hon. member should perhaps be reminded that to wage war, specially the last one, the national debt was increased fourfold, income tax was much higher, personal exemptions, were only \$600 for an unmarried person and \$1200 for married people, income tax was levied from the rate of 33½, taxes were levied from \$5,000, almost up to 100 per cent certain years and up to 75 per cent in others, on the income from excess profits, and there was price control, etc.

Needless to say that if the government wanted, in a democratic system and in peace time, to take such drastic measures, it would hardly be able to remain in power to attain its objectives, however worthwhile they may be.

We have to agree that nothing will be achieved in the war against poverty without a complete co-ordination of efforts. I was pleased to hear the responsible minister say that as one of his main tasks, he would have to establish new interdepartmental structures, and ensure the integration of activities because every department must provide the best management possible. As far from regional planning as he is, he can nonetheless help considerably to alleviate the distress prevailing in some areas.

For example, the Department of Justice does not as such exert an economic influence but in establishing a penitentiary in an underdeveloped region, it could make jobs available in the construction and in the operation of the institution.

And inevitably other departments, like those of Transport, Communications, Public Works, have the possibility to act much more directly to influence the economy and assist underdeveloped areas.

Because of the personality of the minister and of the co-operation he will receive, because of the understanding of the Prime