

Under the bill, the House would not be permitted to debate the proposal to form a new ministry. Just imagine, we will not have the authority to debate in this House the establishment of a new ministry. The government could set up a ministry of information Canada. They can do whatever they like without coming to the House. As the minister said the other day—and he was perfectly right—parliamentary control lies in the ability of this House to deny money for any undertaking of which we do not approve. What chance have we on that score? Even if everyone on this side were present and voted against granting the money, the government could still go ahead and set up ministries. So that argument does not hold water. By proclamation, the Governor in Council may establish at his discretion up to five ministers of state. The responsible minister would be in charge of policy formulation and development, and this is contrary to tradition since policy formulation has always been a Crown prerogative.

We have had a sample of this reorganization in the House. I want to say that this reorganization will not cure all the ills of the government. Let me remind hon. members that the government split the Department of Labour into the Department of Labour and the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I think every elected member has experienced great difficulty in his riding as a result of that action. The division of these two very closely related departments of government has not been very popular. What can be more closely related than a man out of work and one seeking a job? In my city of Guelph there is the manpower office, but the unemployment office from which the unemployed collect their benefits is in the central area of Waterloo. There is no co-ordination between the two offices and there has been nothing but trouble since the department was split.

In 1968, the new Department of Communications was set up and the Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) was in charge of the Post Office, Telesat and other forms of communications. We know what a mess we got into there. There was nothing but trouble. I am sure the President of the Treasury Board will not appreciate what I have to say, but I cannot miss the opportunity of reminding him that the government set up the department of industry, against the wishes of the opposition and over our protests. On June 27, 1963 as recorded at page 1663 of *Hansard*, the Hon. Gordon Churchill said the following:

My criticism of the bill, and of the whole idea—

He was referring to the bill setting up the department of industry.

—is that the Department of Trade and Commerce, as it is at the present time, is equipped to do all that the proposed department of industry is aiming to do.

What could be more plain and forthright than that? On June 28 of the same year, Mr. Churchill said:

—this is a mistake, in that a very strong department, trade and commerce—which could be called industry and commerce—is being weakened by this proposal.

Government Organization Act, 1970

How true those words were. The government paid no attention to the opposition of the day. They went ahead and set up the department of industry.

What did that cost the taxpayer of Canada? The department was set up in July of 1963, and in 1969 it was amalgamated with the department of trade and commerce in great confusion. People were transferred from the department of industry to the new department. The department of industry had hired very expensive people, and these people had to work alongside employees of the department of trade and commerce who were paid much less. There was no end to the trouble and confusion that resulted. If I had been an employee of the department of trade and commerce when that happened I would not have been happy with it either. In the first year, the estimates of the department of industry were \$23.7 million. In 1967-68 the figure was \$118.1 million, a fourfold increase in four years. Then, there was the amalgamation, and that is the expensive story of the department of industry.

We must not forget about the staff. It will be said that people from different departments will go into the new department of environment and will be absorbed there. But if we experience the same thing that happened with the department of industry, this will not be so. In 1963-64 the staff of the department of industry numbered 274. In 1964-65 the staff grew to 786, a 200 per cent increase. In 1967-68, the budget of the department was \$118.1 million and the budget of the department of trade and commerce was \$81.3 million. So reorganization is not new to us, and I mention these figures to show that reorganization is not an answer to all these problems.

I think I have said enough on this subject, so I will now deal with Part VI, the Post Office. What a checkered career this department has had. At one time it used to be a stable department which ran efficiently. It did not bring in too much money but it gave good service. The public was reasonably happy with it. But reorganization took place. What a licking the public has taken since that happened. They paid more but got less service. That is the first thing we should note. I have letters to substantiate this. A constituent wrote that it took seven days for a letter to go from Guelph to Toronto, and six days for a letter to go from Guelph to the University of Western Ontario in London. The counter service in the post offices was discontinued on Saturdays and was not resumed until recently. Even now, it is not in effect all day Saturday as the minister said it would be. I find that counter service has been reinstated only up until twelve o'clock noon.

● (3:10 p.m.)

We have had five day delivery introduced. We had a national strike for three weeks in the summer of 1968. From January, 1968, to March, 1970, 1,227 post offices were closed. In April, 1969, 2,500 low budget publications lost their second class mailing privileges. In November, 1970, 140 lost mail bags were found. They had been left in a truck in March, and after the truck had been stored in some place in Montreal no one checked to see if it