

Government Organization

This is a powerful media which will probably prove to be more powerful than the classroom, and could be put to great use in the educational field. In this way, we may be able to overcome some of the limitations that exist in the educational field in various provinces, particularly in respect of scholastic advancement in adult education.

When the minister is setting up this department of communications, I hope he will move to accomplish great things in the educational field of adult training. Perhaps he can maintain one or two channels in this field for government use. In this way, he may be able to remedy a difficulty existing in certain provinces in respect of educational communication.

When the minister is considering this matter, I hope he will take into account some recent statements and expressions of the aspirations of provincial educational people. Surely he will agree that there is a beautiful opportunity for the federal government to provide equality in educational television to all national viewers.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak very briefly about something I observed and thought very interesting. A few moments ago the hon. member for Parkdale rose and made an eloquent speech outlining a number of things about which he wanted information from the Postmaster General for the benefit of his constituents. Obviously, these are things he has wanted to know about for a long time. They related to the Post Office and other things under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General. Obviously, he has not been able to get this information.

The hon. member was trying to obtain this information from an individual who sits beside him in this house. At any time he was speaking he could have reached out and touched that minister. I draw this matter to the attention of the house because during the last election we heard a great deal from the Prime Minister about the need for better communication within this country and how he intended to bring about this better communication. He said this was going to be a government of dialogue, that there would be dialogue between the people and the government so, the government and the people would be much closer together because they would understand each other. For the first time, there was to be a tremendous amount of communication.

Ladies and gentlemen, or Mr. Chairman, I should say—

An hon. Member: What a play to the gallery.

Mr. Hees: If you had looked at the gallery, as I have, and seen the attractive people there you would understand why I spoke that way.

Let me say that what has happened indicates just how valid the election promises of the Prime Minister were. We have two members of the same government, one a minister and the other a parliamentary secretary, who sit side by side in this house but are unable to talk to each other. As the hon. member for Parkdale has said, he has not been able to get any of the information he has asked for regarding this important matter from the Post Office Department.

It seems to me that this is the beginning of a revelation which has occurred recently in respect of the gap in credibility. This credibility gap has plagued government leaders all over the world including Mr. Wilson, Mr. Johnson and General de Gaulle. It now seems to have come home to our Prime Minister. Perhaps this is the reason we read last Saturday with great interest the latest reports of the Gallop poll which showed that the majority of the people in this country have become dissatisfied with the operations of this government. This situation results from the fact that the Prime Minister's election promises have simply not come true.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 12 inclusive agreed to.

The Chairman: We shall now proceed to Part III, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

On clause 13—*Department established.*

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Chairman, on introducing the present bill a few days ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) explained its rather simple objective: the improvement of the government's administrative organization in order to deal more efficiently with those unavoidable, permanent and new problems which the country must face now and in the future. The same concern had led to reforms to parliamentary procedure and cabinet administration.

Any self-respecting institution updates its methods, from time to time, in a word, modernizes its framework.