

Government Organization

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, may I tell the hon. gentleman that I will send him a copy of the speech I made in Calgary on the subject of petroleum.

Mr. Woolliams: I have already read his speech, Mr. Speaker.

• (8:40 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege raised by the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Pepin), I would ask him to listen to me, to allow me to say just a few words.

This afternoon, you called me to order because I was straying away from—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order.

Mr. Caouette: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege or is he raising a point of order?

Mr. Caouette: I am on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The hon. member for Villeneuve on a point of order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, you called me to order at least a dozen times because I was straying away from Bill No. C-178 that is now before us.

I notice the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) does not wander, but he is straying away totally from the subject matter that deals with the act respecting the organization of the government.

I understand that the government is disorganized, Mr. Speaker, but at any rate my point of order is the following: As Your Honour called me to order this afternoon, I think it would be in order to also remind the hon. member for Bow River that he must limit himself to the principle of the bill. It is not that I do not want to hear him, on the contrary I want to hear him, but in due course.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. I thank the hon. member for Villeneuve for having enlightened the Chair.

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: I am always glad to have little interruptions like this in the middle of [Mr. Woolliams.]

one of my speeches. If I post a copy of my speech to the people back home they will realize that I had a good audience, and that the leader of the Ralliement Crèditistes was listening to me.

To go back to what I was talking about before, that subject comes under the minister's jurisdiction. I congratulate the Prime Minister who organized this set-up, for having these resources under one department. I hope that the minister is carrying out his function. I hope he will get on with his job. That was the wish expressed by the people in Calgary. They were members of the Chamber of Commerce. I do not know their politics, but I wondered whether some of them had heard the talk by the minister. We heard a speech, but we did not hear any talk.

If the minister did talk about resources, let me say that we were most impressed. We have very important resources. We hope that the minister's department and other government departments are as interested in promoting the kind of trade and attention that the province of Alberta deserves, and that the premier of that province thinks are warranted. In connection with that, may I say that the premier has just returned from Japan.

Coming back to one last point that I wish to touch on, I still say that this bill is not really a bill to do with reorganization. There was a problem in the cabinet. In order to satisfy the problem the government set up certain jobs, and then it said that certain men probably could do those jobs. In other words, the government said: "We will take certain functions of that department and this department, and give it to somebody else, because another man will probably handle it better than the present man in charge of that department, and there will be fewer political repercussions.

When in the near future we talk about the R.C.M.P., which now comes under the department of the Solicitor General, I hope that the Prime Minister and other members of the cabinet and of his party will stand up and defend that force, because without a police force such as the R.C.M.P., without the tradition that it has built up, we could not administer law properly in this nation.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Loibinière): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the speech of the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams). What struck me most was