

*Civil Service Act*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he considers that I am not steadfast and not independent.

**Mr. Graffey:** Mr. Chairman, I have never been a person with too much respect for people who plead humility all the time, and I think, as he himself does, that undoubtedly the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was a capable and loyal civil servant. But I am now talking about a general principle which I feel in my heart of hearts hurt the system. What else did we have near the end of 22 years of Liberal rule? The hon. member for Laurier went from being an active politician to the seaway commission, and then all around the circle and back again. I am not going to be irresponsible and make irresponsible attacks. I am sure when these gentlemen were in the civil service they were loyal public servants. But what I am saying most emphatically is that the present administration is today trying to correct the bad confusion which was created in the public mind at that time, not only among civil servants but among the public generally.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Would the hon. member permit a question? Is he not aware that the distinguished parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance himself was a civil servant?

**Mr. Graffey:** I am quite aware that the hon. member worked in a minister's office—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** As I did.

**Mr. Graffey:** As the hon. member did, but I do not know whether he was a civil servant in the strict sense of the word. I believe he was secretary to the minister of national revenue at that time, and I may be subject to correction here but I do not believe he was a civil servant in the strictest sense of the word.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** And then to the leader of the opposition.

**Mr. Graffey:** And then to the leader of the opposition.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Still a civil servant.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** A public servant.

**Mr. Graffey:** I realize only too well that we have not the same system here as there is in the United States, where they recognize the separation of powers theory. But I do say this, and I say it emphatically; that parliamentary democracy only works well when you have a clear cut division between administrative and legislative duties. At the end of that 22 year reign the people from one

[Mr. Graffey.]

end of this country to the other were not making irresponsible attacks on these fine civil servants about whom I am talking, but they were making attacks upon what they called bureaucracy; not bureaucracy caused by the civil servants but caused by an administration which delegated to them tasks which they should never have had in the first place. This procedure was involved in those numerous orders in council, and it was caused by the leadership of the government of the day when so many of them did not see this clear-cut division which is so important in our democratic parliamentary process.

Let us compare, for instance, what is going on in Canada today with what went on in the United States not so many years ago. We had a very fine general enter into the arena of partisan politics and trespass upon the jurisdiction of the President of the United States. However, that general knew what he was doing. I ask hon. members to compare that with what is going on in this country today. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, has been charged, for example, with advising the governor of the Bank of Canada. I do not think it is necessary for the discussion of the principle which I am putting forward to become involved in a detailed debate as to whether or not a public servant has a responsibility to the government of the day or to parliament. Perhaps the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate did not think there was anything wrong in advising the governor of the Bank of Canada to take certain action, or advise him how he should write his various releases.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. I have already twice denied in this house that I had anything to do with the writing of those statements by the governor of the Bank of Canada. I do not really believe that repeated statements of that sort should be permitted, making it necessary for an hon. member to get up in his place—

**Mr. Tremblay:** That is true.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Of course it is true; I have no intention of making anything of this or protesting because it is true. I said it once, and I do think that statement should be accepted.

**Mr. Graffey:** I certainly accept the statement of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, who is an honourable man, and I accept exactly what he said. He said he had nothing to do with the writing of the speeches—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The statements.