

in certain other countries, where posts in the Civil Service are considered as the normal avenue of transition to political or private employment and are accepted for that purpose. In this connection, I heartily support the view expressed in a recent Ottawa editorial as follows:

"The line between the Cabinet and the Civil Servant must be sharp and clear, with the Civil Servant, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion - above suspicion that he is the political ally of the Government. Once blur that line, once give the public or the official opposition the suspicion that the Civil Service may not be neutral, or that some of its members in high places may be using their position to promote political careers, currying favour with the Government in the process, and may we not then be on the way of risking Civil Service continuity?"

That view is, I suggest, very wise. I agree with it, all the more so because I can assert with a very clear conscience that I have always tried to act in accordance with it while I was a government official.

Having said so much, however, I am bound to go further and express my own opinion that a Civil Servant, who is also a citizen, is entitled to the privilege that every other Canadian citizen has, of resigning from his job, and attempting to serve his country by entering the House of Commons as an elected representative of the people. I can assure you, from my own experience, that the satisfaction and security of the Civil Service are such that not many senior officials are likely to yield to this temptation. But I hope, when it does happen, and it certainly happens very rarely, that neither the motives of the person concerned, if he has been an honest Civil Servant, nor the high and impartial standing of the Civil Service itself will be questioned.

As one official who has taken the plunge, as one who has recently left the ranks of those who are too often referred to as "power-hungry bureaucrats", I can now, without misunderstanding, put in a good word for the members of the "bureaucracy", who are so often the victims of criticism which they themselves cannot answer because of their Civil Service status.

I ought to know something about bureaucrats, because I have been one myself and have seen others in action in a good many countries of the world. There is, of course, always a danger that some official, not responsible to the electorate or answerable directly to Parliament, may overstep the bounds of what should be permitted in a democratic state. The danger is greater in this day of complicated political, economic and social problems, where the knowledge and experience of the expert is more important than ever before and where the Minister cannot hope to be automatically informed about all the problems that come up. There might develop a tendency, indeed in some places there has developed a tendency, for Parliament and responsible Ministries to abdicate in favour of the skilled official. That tendency should, of course, be resisted, or it will mean the end of responsible government. I have never myself spoken of this matter to any responsible official of the government in Ottawa who has not agreed with me. Indeed, the best protection of the official in the exercise of his proper authority, is a healthy and vigorous, responsible Ministry and Parliament, supervising and controlling his actions and laying down the principles and policies which are to govern them. I can, however, understand the impatience

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