

The government can appoint as many ministers as it wants to, in short, it can appoint a dozen or more if it so chooses, but that will not change anything. I feel that there are too many ministers already for the results we are getting in any field of economic activity whatsoever.

Of the present ministers, several seem ineffective; one wonders why they exist at all. They do not get results. And we are now asked to create five new departments, excluding the main ones. For instance, since the beginning of this session, we are told practically every day about the new department of manpower.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) said this afternoon that this department will have to study new production techniques, as well as the problem of automation and management-labour relations in Canada. Strikes are looming up in Quebec like never before in any other province in Canada. Professors' strike, teachers' strike, students' strike, government-employed professionals' strike, strike on the left—yes, the Coca-Cola strike in Montreal, in the riding of the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté)—all kinds of strikes, and none of them is settled to the advantage of the strikers. In fact, if we consider closely what is happening anywhere in Canada, we find that the end of one strike is merely the beginning of another. What is the new minister of manpower going to do about all this? The Prime Minister this afternoon mentioned automation. What does automation mean, Mr. Chairman? It means that man is being displaced by machine; this means that production will stem from the work performed by a machine instead of man.

And what is being proposed as a solution? Absolutely nothing, except the setting up of a department of manpower. When we see a strike break out anywhere in Canada due to automation—and more of them will be occurring within the next few years—what are the unions and the labour leaders asking for? They ask the industrialists, the employers to absorb the wages of employees displaced by machines, by progress, by automation. This automatically increases the cost of goods, hence the retail prices that the consumers of Canada will have to pay.

Increased prices means inflation. Such are the solution currently being suggested to automation which is growing always more important in Canada, like in most countries of the world.

#### *Establishment of New Departments*

Mr. Chairman, the solution advanced by certain labour leaders that the employers must continue to pay wages to employees displaced by machines—

• (6:20 p.m.)

[*English*]

**Mr. Kindt:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether there is a quorum present in the chamber?

**The Chairman:** Order. May I read to the house citation 60(2) of Beauséne, fourth edition, page 49:

If notice is taken by a member that there is not a quorum present in committee of the whole, the chairman follows the course pursued by the Speaker in the house. If he ascertains that twenty members are not present, he leaves the chair, the house is resumed, and, on his report, the Speaker counts the house, and if there is not then a quorum, he must adjourn the house forthwith.

I would therefore ask the Clerk to count the house.

**Mr. Kindt:** Mr. Chairman, do you include those who have just walked in?

**The Chairman:** Order, please. At the top of page 49 of Beauséne it says:

While the house is being counted the doors remain open—

**Mr. Deachman:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, will those who are present in the chamber now be recorded or what is the procedure in this regard?

**Mr. Winch:** Mr. Chairman, may I suggest that you make the count because I have counted and there are now two over the quorum.

**Mr. Starr:** That happened only in the last half minute. There were only 16 when the hon. member drew it to our attention.

**Mr. Kindt:** About eight walked in.

And on the count being made, more than 20 members were declared to be present.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I declare the committee properly formed. The hon. member for Villeneuve.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the hon. member raised the matter of a quorum, because I thought he was listening to me closely; as a matter of fact, I felt I was giving him rather valuable information on labour matters in Canada. At any rate, he was—