

Government Organization

the fact that the constituency which I represent, that of Chapleau, is very extensive and rich in mining resources of all kinds. I think that the minister knows it, because he has surely received requests and has been in a position to consider them before taking over that department.

He knows that northwestern Quebec has a huge and varied mining potential. I wish to point out more especially the iron deposits which have been discovered recently in the Val d'Or, Miquelon and Cadillac areas.

Surveys were made which indicate that there are at least 6 million tons of iron ore lying there and waiting to be developed. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the minister should look into the matter and have those natural resources developed and turned into production and consumer goods and put to use for Canadians who are asking for them to fill their immeasurable needs.

These iron deposits are close to the roads, railways, communications of all kinds. We have the manpower who would be delighted to work at it. Then I think therefore that in reorganizing this department some consideration should be given this matter.

There is something else I would like to mention. On many occasions especially during this session the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) my colleague for the neighbouring riding has called the attention of the minister to the development of gold mines in the area. Each time, the minister answered that he would defer to the province of Quebec. Then, if the minister has nothing to do with mining operations particularly with regard to gold mines, I am wondering why this is mentioned in paragraph (a), clause 29, of Bill No. 178 on reorganization. And I quote:

(a) energy, mines and minerals, water and other resources;

In my opinion, the minister should at least make suggestions to the province of Quebec on measures meant to assist gold mines, if he cannot act himself, not so much for gold mines as for the miners working there.

Today, mines in operation are bound to close down because they show no profit. Now, it is needless to say that the new projects will not be carried out, that new mines will not be opened, because I believe that in the reorganization of this department they should think about making gold mines profitable, so that the miners working there can

find what they expect, namely an income comparable to that found in any other mining industry in northern regions or elsewhere in Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while we are still considering the reorganization of the department of energy, mines and resources, I see in clause 29 that among the functions of the department, the latter will have to see that—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that on second reading of a bill, he cannot refer to a particular clause; he can only deal with the principle of the bill.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for calling me to order in the terms you have just explained to me. I always thought that when considering clause 1 of Bill C-178, one could deal with all parts of the bill generally.

Mr. Speaker: I must point out to the hon. member that we are not considering clause 1 of the bill, we are considering a motion for concurrence in second reading of the bill.

Mr. Caouette: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, are we discussing Bill C-178 in general or only part of it?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve is raising a point of order. I am quite sure he knows as well as I do that we are now considering a motion concerning the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto.

It is an elementary rule of this house to refrain from referring to particular sections of a bill at this stage.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that since this afternoon every single member has referred to some section or other concerning a department proposed in Bill C-178.

I would not want the member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) to be subject to discrimination any more than other members who spoke on Bill C-178 and who were allowed to say almost anything they wanted on any section of Bill C-178.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot change the standing orders. The hon. member knows the rules as much as I do. I am sure he will want to abide by the rules in the course of his remarks.