

Government Organization

● (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, after listening to the minister a few minutes ago I could not help coming to the conclusion that the government is really interested in the consumer, and consumer affairs in this country. Looking at the clause that is before us, I cannot help feeling that if the government wanted to translate their thoughts into something tangible, a paragraph "(e) consumer affairs" could be added to the clause, which would leave the matter quite wide open. I ask the minister whether the government would be willing to add to this clause, "(e) consumer affairs."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I was eagerly waiting for us to proceed to consideration of clause 8, that is the clause dealing with the duties of the registrar general, as mentioned in the margin, because I thought that according to clause 6, a new department was being established.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was quite surprised when I referred to the Larousse dictionary. On the other hand, I was not surprised, because there was something wrong. When I consulted the Larousse dictionary, I realized that the word "registraire" did not even exist.

I wonder what the President of the Privy Council thinks about that? He should listen, since the name to be given to the new department is not even mentioned in the French dictionary.

Therefore, we would like to know if the government wants to create a new word. When I refer to the English dictionary, I find the word "registrar". That word exists.

But the government has the habit of translating literally without checking if a word exists. Are we going to translate "registrar" by "registraire" when this last word is not even mentioned in the Larousse dictionary?

What will we do then? Is a new word being created? This word does not exist.

When I found that the word did not appear in Larousse, I consulted another dictionary, the unabridged Littré in several volumes, and found the word "registraire", but it is an old word, fallen into disuse, which meant:

Formerly, public keeper of registers.

And when I see the definition of the word "register"—at the time when it was being

[Mr. Douglas.]

heard long ago and this should be the function of the new registrar, well, it was:

A device provided in the outlets, for smoke, gas, ovens or fire-places, to set the draught and control combustion by regulating the opening.

Well, Mr. Chairman, someone has just been appointed to the job. But the word "register" has another meaning, because the registrar is the keeper of the register. What was it in the administrative sense? It is:

A registry of large fruits.

These are large fruits.

An hon. Member: The big shots.

Mr. Grégoire: Well, now. Are we to establish a department of agriculture or a department of fruits? Mr. Chairman, what will the person appointed as registrar have to do apart from being the keeper of the registry? There is another definition. In the archaeological sense, it is:

Each of the areas in which is sometimes divided the surface of a bas-relief, a stele, a painting, a vase.

So that is what he would be the keeper of? I have all the definitions here. And it is dutifully explained that the word is obsolete, that it was used long ago. And in the new Larousse dictionary, it does not appear. The word no longer exists.

What are we to do, now? That reminds me of the words Solicitor General. It was translated from the English Solicitor. Go and see what it means in French. It does not mean the same thing at all.

And then, they come up with such words. French words are made up and translated from the English by sound, even completely meaningless, even more non-existent.

Just wait; here is the definition of "solicitor general", according to the French dictionary:

Solicitor: a person who applies for a job, who begs for a favour, a service.

Hence, the man appointed there, is the man who has begged a favour, a service, in short who has applied for a job. This proves, Mr. Chairman, that when the government comes to us with legislation, or with the names of ministers, translation is made by ear, by sound; it sounds the same, doesn't it? "Solicitor", *solliciteur*; "registrar", is simply translated by "registraire". It is not even in the dictionary; that does not matter, let us go ahead.

What shall we do, Mr. Chairman? Shall we agree to the creation of a new word simply to create a new department. I am against it.