

Government Organization

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I cannot answer this question. We have not communicated with the chairman. The vice-chairman has not yet been nominated, so it is difficult to say how much time he will devote to his duties. So far as Mr. Smith is concerned, we have not put the question to him but he accepted the duties which are outlined in the legislation. I do not know how much time he is prepared to devote to this work.

do not intend to lose any of the work done by the Atlantic Development Board.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): You have already done that.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 32 to 35 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 36—*Meetings*.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Isabelle: Mr. Chairman, I find clause 36 reads as follows:

The Council shall meet at least twice a year at such place in the Atlantic region as the Council considers appropriate or in the City of Ottawa,—

Mr. McCleave: I understand Mr. Smith is leaving his position at the University of New Brunswick, probably in anticipation of spending a great deal of time on work for the council.

Since during the study of the bill, several departments accepted, in the framework of the reorganization, to replace the word "Ottawa" by "national capital area", and since the expression is defined in the schedule to the National Capital Act, I ask whether the hon. minister is willing to take this into consideration or whether we shall be obliged one of these days, to amend the legislation once again?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I cannot give the hon. member an answer to his question. If Mr. Smith resigned for the purpose of giving much of his time to the council, I will be very satisfied, but I was not made aware of this fact.

Mr. McCleave: I hope he will be paid accordingly.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I am glad to learn that the minister agrees with at least the intent of the amendment, even though he does not agree with its necessity or substance. One of the things that has disturbed me that has not been referred to in the discussion, and which I might raise as a result of questions put by the hon. member for St. John's East, relates to the important studies that are being prepared and printed by the Atlantic Development Board. The third one has just been printed, or will be very shortly. I understand there were a dozen of them at one time or another and the board has been working on them for some years.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The hon. member is quite right in his remark. However, a great number of statutes would have to be amended, if we consider the national capital area as that of Hull-Ottawa. When federal buildings are built in Hull, it could be legal to meet in Hull as well as in Ottawa. At that time, perhaps it would be advisable to amend all statutes which mention the city of Ottawa, but I do not think it is necessary right now.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, could the minister give us at least the guarantee, when he says it is not necessary to do so now and that it could and will be done later, that it will not be put off indefinitely?

I think that one of the great losses, together with other things on the demise of the Atlantic Development Board, would be the failure to complete these particular studies. Would the minister indicate what procedure has been devised or what machinery has been brought into effect to make sure that these studies are completed within a reasonable period of time?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Chairman, it will not be put off indefinitely, because everyone knows that we are now considering the problems of the national capital.

When we consider the estimates, there will undoubtedly be a discussion on what constitutes the national capital area and then, we shall all have the opportunity to state our views. It will be the best opportunity to correct what we want to correct.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I do not think anything will be lost. So far as the completed studies are concerned, we will look into them, and we will be happy to implement all those recommendations that we think should be implemented. If there are any studies which have not been completed and we think should be completed, we will be happy to do it directly through the department. We certainly

● (9:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

Clause agreed to.

Clause 37 agreed to.