

C 55957

Federal District Commission

Hon. J. D. Chaplin (Lincoln)
April 26, 1938.

(House of Commons - Third reading of Bill - Revised Hansard p. 2397).

"Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that in respect to this Bill the Prime Minister would have accepted the proposal of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bennett) to limit the period during which the annual payments are to be made to five years instead of fifteen. My chief objection to the Bill is that this parliament, through a ^{commission} ^{committee} ^{commission}, is making commitments for fifteen years, which in the ordinary course of events will cover the lifetime of possibly three, if not four, parliaments. I think the principle is wrong, and I am surprised that it should be seriously proposed, especially after what the Prime Minister said in this House when in Opposition and since he became head of the government. To give to a commission the expenditure of moneys over a period of fifteen years is to my mind preposterous, and to take away from future parliaments the right to say how that money shall be spent, I think is also preposterous. Therefore I move an amendment as follows; seconded by Mr. Manion:

"That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to committee of the whole with instructions that they have power to amend by striking out the word "fifteen" in line eighteen and substituting the word "five" therefor."

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