

Government Organization

● (9:20 p.m.)

(b) the feasibility of particular programs and projects and the contribution those programs and projects will make to the economic expansion and social adjustment of the Atlantic region; and

(c) such other matters, relating to the duties and functions of the Minister under this Part in respect of the Atlantic region, as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration.

This means that the council will advise the minister on all those subjects. His duty will be to ensure that there is collaboration and co-operation, while the council will provide him with advice.

My next comment is on the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Egmont which reads:

—or as in the opinion of the council should be considered by it.

That would give the council wider jurisdiction than that of the minister, and this is not acceptable. I do not think the council can give advice on such things as permits to be granted to Canadian Pacific Airlines between Vancouver and Tokyo, for instance. This is not within its jurisdiction. I think the responsibility of the council must be more limited than that of the minister. So, even though I agree with all that the hon. gentleman said, I do not think his amendment is necessary. If we implement the law as it should be implemented, I do not think the hon. gentleman will have any grievance.

Mr. Marshall: I should like to ask the minister a fundamental question having to do with the municipal or community councils. In submitting a project, through what channels would they have to go to have the project considered? Would they have to go to the Atlantic Economic Council or to the province?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Of course, their project could be studied by the council. However, we would have to have an agreement with the provinces if they were to consult what we call the infra-structure of the municipalities. We would have to have some agreement with the provinces and negotiate with them what course should be taken by the councils. I do not think there is anything in the law which would prevent them from doing it one way or another.

Mr. Bell: How about regional desks?

Mr. McGrath: Would the minister advise the committee on whether a budget will be

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

appropriated to the council under the departmental estimates to provide for staff to perform the administrative functions of the council, and if not, will somebody within the department be assigned to carry on the executive functions of the people who now form the executive staff of the Atlantic Development Board?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The law makes provision for a small staff which would be at the service of the council. The council will not have a research staff such as the old Atlantic Development Board had. All the executive functions will be assumed by the department. However, I think the council will need a staff to carry on their work, to help them at their meetings and with their recommendations to the department.

Mr. McGrath: I have a question for clarification, Mr. Chairman. Will the staff be separate from the department and will it function under the authority of the chairman of the council, or will it be staffed from within the department?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): They will be *de facto* under the authority of the council but they will be integrated in the civil service and will be under the general jurisdiction of the department. However, let me point out that we are referring here to a stenographer and one or two secretaries. I think it would be preferable for this staff to be in the civil service.

Mr. McGrath: I referred to senior personnel, the executive staff. We realize the council would have to have stenographic and secretarial staff, but I meant personnel who would be considered to be at the executive level.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think it should be made perfectly clear that it is no longer necessary for the board to have this type of staff. The department will be happy to provide them with the executive staff they need for a short period of time. However, this staff would be under the jurisdiction of the department. Otherwise, we would be rebuilding the old Atlantic Development Board, which is not the intention of this legislation.

Mr. McCleave: May I ask the minister how much time the chairman and the vice-chairman of the council have indicated they will make available for the performance of their duties?