

Government Organization

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Chairman, I do not think this amendment would serve any purpose at all. Clause 26 (1) provides that in the formulation or elaboration of any plan the government must negotiate with the province concerned; that is the substance of the clause. We have to negotiate with the provinces. The second paragraph does not relate at all to the provinces but merely provides the conditions upon which the minister himself, representing the federal government, shall negotiate an agreement which has to be authorized first of all by the Governor in Council.

I see no reason for providing that any such agreement must be accepted by the province concerned. Unless an agreement is accepted by the province, the province will not sign it. Indeed, the province itself may well have this regulation. It may well say to the responsible minister that he is not to sign any agreement with the federal government unless it is first approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. That would be up to the province to decide and is an internal procedure. Therefore, I do not know why the hon. member puts forward this amendment.

Provision is made for reaching an agreement in subclause (1). If an agreement is reached with a province, we would not need such an amendment. We do not want to compel a province to accept what has been negotiated. As I say, I do not see the purpose of this amendment.

Subclause (2) deals with the powers of the minister. I cannot sign an agreement unless it is first approved by the Governor in Council. That is all the subclause provides. It does not impose anything upon the provinces. Some provinces may decide that three of its ministers have to sign an agreement; it is a matter for them, not for us. That is why I think the amendment would be useless and serve no purpose.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I should just like to ask one question here, one that initially raised this whole subject in my mind. The opening words of clause 26 (2) are: "Notwithstanding subsection (1)". Then, the subclause goes on to talk about detailed negotiation. The inference I draw from that, though I may be misreading this particular clause, is that it puts the province in the unhappy position really of having to buy something sight unseen. If that is not what the clause implies,

I will be happy to withdraw this particular amendment.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Since provision is made for consultation with the provinces, I see no point in the amendment because it does not add anything. I think it would only confuse.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed that the hon. member has leave to withdraw his amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. MacDonald, Egmont) withdrawn.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 26 as amended carry?

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I have one other question on clause 26 (3) (c) which refers to Canada and a province procuring the incorporation of one or more agencies. I am wondering whether there is provision in this particular clause for the establishment by the government of Canada and one or more province of an incorporated body. In other words, if I may use this as an example, is it possible for an incorporated body to be set up by the government of Canada and, say, three or four provinces in the Atlantic area?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes. Well, not under 26.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Where then?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Does the hon. member have in mind the setting up of a corporation like Devco, for example, in Nova Scotia?

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): No, I am thinking of an incorporated body that might be set up in conjunction with government of Prince Edward Island to administer the comprehensive development plan in that area. Is it possible that as the department moves in and devises plans, there may be plans that relate to more than one province and some kind of incorporated agency may be required in which both the federal government and the provincial governments must participate.

• (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think there is provision in the bill, Mr. Chairman, for the setting up in any province a corporation similar to the Devco Corporation of Nova Scotia.