

Government Organization

effectively in programs of economic expansion. I would think that people in those parts of Quebec that are going to be affected by this program would resent the fact that no provision is made in this legislation for that kind of participation. I think the same will apply to areas in Northern Ontario.

The minister has referred to programs that will be devised and planned for the Indian and Metis people of western Canada, but again under the terms of this legislation there is no provision for an equitable kind of participation by those people. I do not think the legislation is at all restrictive or even mandatory. It is permissive legislation, and that should certainly suit the government. I am really quite surprised that the minister finds this suggested amendment unacceptable in terms of achieving the aims which the government is trying to spell out in the establishment of this department. I am not going to say anything further on this at the moment, but I think this suggestion would offer the minister more flexibility and not less.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 30—*Constitution of membership.*

Mr. McGrath: Can the minister say what is meant by, "after consultation with—such other persons or organizations as the minister considers appropriate"? Can he give the chamber an assurance that political partisan considerations are not what are meant by this phrase, and that the only consideration will be the people who can do the best job for the region? I see no reason for having these words in there. Why not just confine it to the governments of the provinces?

• (9:10 p.m.)

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. gentleman for raising that point. I thought he would congratulate the government for having introduced this obligation to consult with the provinces. This obligation did not exist before in the law; it is new. But I think it is normal that we consult with the provinces.

What does the other sentence mean exactly? It means that in certain regions, and maybe in the Atlantic region, you have some very important organizations that are not governmental organizations but which are probably organizations that deserve to be consulted. I am thinking of APEC, for example, in the maritimes. This is a private organization, and I think it would be worth while to consult with it. This is the reason the

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

provision was included in the bill. It was not included in order to consult with the Liberal association of the riding.

Mr. McGrath: That will happen.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. member who had asked him what he meant by such other person or organization, the minister explained what he meant by organization. May I ask him the same question with regard to "such other person"?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): It is simply, Mr. Chairman, that organizations are not the whole answer. Consultations may sometimes take place with some very important persons who play an important part in a particular region, and not necessarily at the political level. We want consultations to be as broad as possible.

In certain regions of the province of Quebec, some people, as the house knows, play a very important part, and we want to be free to consult them before creating the board.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, does this mean that, as far as Quebec and more particularly the Eastern Townships are concerned, the minister would consult with hon. members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Chairman, I do not need any provisions in the act to force me to do so. If some hon. members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste truly represent the opinion of the population as a whole, I shall be glad to ask for their advice.

[*English*]

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 30 carry?

Clause 30 agreed to.

On clause 31—*Function of Council.*

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Chairman, it would be useful, but I will not take the time to do so, to compare the functions of the Atlantic Development Council with the soon to be lamented Atlantic Development Board. The interpretation of the responsibilities of this Council is extremely narrow and is, in fact, limited only to suggestions in certain circumstances, which it might offer to the minister for the carrying out of his responsibilities. I will not repeat all the arguments that have been put forward about how this