

*Atlantic Development Board*

the well established practices of this house. In fact, if the hon. member will consult with me I can tell him of the practice of some of my predecessors as to at what stage they were when the words "Adopté; carried" were put; they were almost around the back of the chair. However, there is no question that this bill was called. Third reading was moved and seconded, and I called it. The Clerk gave it third reading and it was adopted and carried. The house cannot toss its business back and forth. I submit that hon. members have now reached the stage where they know what is the business of the house, and they must be prepared to stand and speak when the order is called.

On the point raised by the hon. member for Lapointe, if the bell rings and there is a quorum the Chair calls the business; we do not wait around until 8.15 at night. I am not suggesting that the hon. member is implying that we should wait until 8.15 at night or whatever might be the time of resuming after adjournment, but when the bell calling members has ceased to ring there is a quorum in the house, and the house is prepared to do its business, it is the usage of this house to get on with the business. If hon. members who wish to speak on a motion know that it is coming up and they wish to catch the eye of whoever is in the chair, whether it is the chairman or the Speaker, it is their business to be in their places when the business of the house commences.

I am not indicating anything new. This is the ordinary, customary practice of this house, and with all deference to hon. members—I do not know what are the wishes of the house here—it would have to be by unanimous consent that we revert, because the order was adopted. Therefore, as I say, we could only revert by unanimous consent. Now the second item of business has been called, and unless there is unanimous consent of the house we must continue with the second item of business. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Hon. H. J. Flemming (Minister of National Revenue)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish an Atlantic development board and to define the duties thereof, to provide for the appointment of the chairman and other members of the board and for the payment of certain expenses of the members thereof, to provide for the appointment of an executive director of the board and for the payment of his remuneration, to provide further that the board may engage the services of such advisers and staff as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its duties and to provide further for other related and incidental matters.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** On a point of order, may I point out that within five minutes we find ourselves in the same position again. It was utterly impossible to understand what the Clerk was saying.

**An hon. Member:** You have your order paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** In this regard I fully agree with the hon. member, but having once asked the co-operation of the house in this matter I do not think I am in the position of a teacher repeatedly addressing students. The house will kindly conform.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Chown in the chair.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, in the speech from the throne this year will be found a paragraph with reference to the proposed Atlantic development board. It consisted of the following words:

You will be asked to authorize the establishment of an Atlantic development board to advise on measures and projects that will promote the economic development of the Atlantic region of Canada.

It is the implementation of that paragraph which the resolution we are now considering will accomplish. It seems fitting and proper that I emphasize the importance of the establishment of the Atlantic development board. The fact that its formation was indicated in the speech from the throne, and that the resolution is before us, is assurance of that. I do not propose to go into past history in much detail as to the effort which has been made to have the federal government establish such a body. I can say, however, that it has been very much in the minds of many people in the Atlantic provinces for some time.

I recall very well that from time to time I felt strongly that such a board could play an important part in the development of the Atlantic provinces. On numerous occasions we urged the setting up of the type of machinery envisaged by the resolution under somewhat flexible terms of reference, and with duties and responsibilities of a very broad nature. It was hoped that an investigation and close study of the natural resources of the Atlantic provinces, and a recommendation regarding the part that the federal government could play in full development, might be undertaken.

Our government has now decided to make this hope a reality. The resolution before us indicates concrete action in this regard. I might mention that the commission on Canada's economic prospects, which reported in 1957, suggested the setting up of a capital projects commission. I would think that the hon. gentleman who represents Davenport in