

Atlantic Development Board Act

have the confidence of this parliament we think we are entitled to have such a board—and when we cease to have the confidence of this parliament we shall no longer try to run this government; we shall act in opposition as we did before.

I say again that the present members of the board are to be continued in office by law. They are all eligible for appointment to a second term, and if that harmony which I hope will exist does exist, there is no reason to think it will not be the desire of everyone that they should continue to serve. I have talked to two members of the board and they have not taken the slightest exception to this. It does seem to me—and I am not seeking to impute any motives—that some of the arguments which have been used in this committee are designed to make it impossible for these gentlemen to continue. We are not trying to do this. We are trying to make it possible for them to work harmoniously as members of the board.

But this is the scheme we have seen fit to recommend to parliament. It is the position taken by the government and I do not feel I can recommend that the committee accept an amendment to this clause. I do not take the same view with regard to all the amendments suggested by the hon. gentlemen, but as far as the amendment to clause 2 is concerned, it is not acceptable to the government.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): In order that there may be no lack of understanding of what is embodied in the suggestion, I should like to move:

That subsection 2, subclause (a) be amended to read:

"In the case of the persons who at the coming into force of this act were members of the Atlantic development board their appointment shall be for the period for which they were originally appointed under the Atlantic Development Board Act."

This has nothing whatever to do with additional members of the board, a point which has been laboured by the Secretary of State. Nor has it anything to do with any members who may be appointed later as a consequence of this measure. It simply provides that these members shall continue in office for the length of time for which they were appointed.

Mr. Pickersgill: Before the hon. gentleman puts the amendment, let me say the government has no desire to avoid a vote on this but I do not think it would be his desire to follow strictly the language in which the amendment is written, because what is being done is to substitute something for what is contained in both 4 (2) (a) and 4 (2) (b). What he means to do, I think, is to amend paragraph (2) at the top of page 2, knock out (a) and (b) and put one single provision in their place. In case the amendment carries it

would be better, surely, that it should make sense. I wonder if the hon. gentleman would like to have it revised accordingly. As soon as that is done we shall be happy to vote on it.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): The bill is somewhat confusing because on both pages there are paragraphs (2) and (3). However, as long as we understand the intent of the amendment I do not think we need differ about the precise wording.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the hon. gentleman wants to strike out (a) and (b) on page 2 of the bill and substitute the words he suggests.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): I am prepared to accept that interpretation.

Amendment (Mr. Flemming, Victoria-Carleton) negatived: Yeas, 18; nays, 62.

The Deputy Chairman: I declare the amendment lost.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

On clause 4—*Board agent of Her Majesty.*

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Chairman, when I rose previously I asked the Secretary of State about the manner in which contracts would be carried out. I inquired whether they would be drawn in accordance with the Financial Administration Act in the same way as if they were made by a department of government. I would want to be satisfied that we are not granting the board any unusual and perhaps irregular methods of obtaining contracts.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think perhaps the hon. gentleman's question would come more properly on clause 16, because all clause 4 does is to make the board an agent of Her Majesty. My hon. friend the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, who really knows something about the law, has just confirmed to me what I was about to say, and that is that all contracts must be made subject to the approval of the governor in council. That is directly set out in clause 16. I assure the hon. member that the governor in council would not give the board power to make contracts, and could not in fact give the board power to make contracts, on any other basis than that provided by law.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

On clause 6—*Payments out of consolidated revenue fund.*

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to clause 6, the object of which is to insert certain words