

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

I could not agree with him more completely in saying that once an election is over, and once a government has been established, that government should remember at all times that it is the government of all of the people of Canada, regardless of how they might have chosen to vote in a free country. That is the only way in which we can maintain the kind of institutions to which I believe all of us in this house are devoted.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Last evening, when this committee rose, I had sent over to the Secretary of State a suggested amendment and I was proceeding to speak, briefly I hope, in connection with certain other amendments which I felt would be good for the bill which is before us, and which would eliminate the general idea which might be prevalent that something is being introduced into the bill which instead of strengthening it is likely to weaken it.

We have a board of five people under arrangements set up by an act of parliament. Now it is proposed there shall be six additions to the board—something which was promised, it is reported, by the Prime Minister—and these people are to be representative of various phases of economic activity. I submit that the government would be accused of attempting to weaken the bill if they placed the members now serving on the board in any inferior position to those it is proposed to appoint. It seems to me the six men should be appointed for the period of time the bill specifies, but that there should be no reduction of the period of time which the original members were appointed to serve. It is only in this way that the government will avoid being accused of trying to dilute the force of the bill rather than strengthen it.

Accordingly, I will send over to the Secretary of State another piece of paper which I should like him to look at. He has complete authority, as he had last night, to impose another name on it if he wishes to do so after consideration. I have already said that I feel clause 20, which is the clause providing that the act shall expire in six years time, or on January 24, 1969, should be deleted. So I will send another proposal over to him.

Last night I made certain statements about the responsibility of government and particularly about the responsibility of parliament about voting money. I am pleased that my colleague who has just spoken has the same feeling as myself in connection with the voting of public money. I do not say this in any partisan spirit, but let me call the attention of the committee to this: not only should we refrain from giving this board or any board the right to dispose of an amount such as \$100 million without parliamentary sanction, but in this particular case, as we are

operating in a deficit position what we are really doing is proposing to borrow that money and place it at the disposal of a non-elected body. In my opinion that should not be done, and I am going to suggest an amendment in this connection also. I shall send this one over to the Secretary of State, too.

Last evening, the Secretary of State read at some length from the report of the commission on Canada's economic prospects as a basis for his argument that the board should go out of existence in six years time. That commission was, of course, headed by the gentleman who is now Minister of Finance, and I marvel at the hon. gentleman's temerity in presenting this report as an excuse for anything done in this house, because in my opinion the elections of 1957, 1958 and 1962 surely demonstrate that the proposals contained in that report were not acceptable to the people of the maritimes. The Secretary of State suggests that this was the opinion of the chairman of that commission—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Of the whole commission.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** All right—of the whole commission. In spite of that, why should this parliament follow that opinion to the extent of proposing that the board shall function for less than six years before going out of existence? I marvel at the lack of judgment shown by the Secretary of State in proposing such a thing. The commission made certain recommendations. A number of them were not carried out and I do not think they will be carried out by the present government. They suggested that maritimers be helped to move out.

**Mr. Robichaud:** No.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Oh, yes. They suggested they should move. That is the word which is used.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Be frank, read the whole sentence.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I am making my own speech and I do not want any help from the hon. member for Gloucester.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You won't get any.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** The point is this: The previous government did not want to help the maritimers move out. They wanted to help them stay in.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** May I ask the hon. gentleman why every year the previous government was in power the minister of labour came and asked the house to vote large sums of money to be used precisely for the purpose of moving people out of the maritime