

Atlantic Development Board Act

of Labour (Mr. MacEachen), in whose constituency part of the park lies. Since I am aware of his great interest in getting everybody to work as soon as possible I trust that he will appear before treasury board and insist, plead, direct, order, or what have you, that they reconsider this small project in Cape Breton Highlands national park. If they do they will be in conformity with what the Secretary of State has said in eloquent and grandiose terms, that they are going to go right ahead and are really going to spend more than \$100 million. Let us hope that something will come of this.

The other point I want to mention is the expiry date which has been referred to by a great many hon. members. The Secretary of State stated, as found on page 1269 of *Hansard*:

This was not with the idea of having a new, permanent agency of government, but really to take a big leap forward quickly.

I referred to that in my previous remarks.

It is that concept that we are seeking to embody in this amendment. It is for that reason it was thought that a six-year period would be an appropriate one.

I ask the Secretary of State: Deep in his heart does he honestly think that the Atlantic development board should expire and die on January 24, 1969? Does he really think that? In all sincerity does he feel that enough will have been accomplished in that short period of time to bring the maritime region closer to the economic level of other parts of Canada? If he does, it is difficult for me to understand. I note that the expiry date is January 24, 1969. Being a Scot I recall that January 25 is the birthday of Robert Burns and I would think that would not be an appropriate time to have the Atlantic development board die. I do not think any day would be an appropriate day.

Having said these few words, I hope the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) will reply to what I have said. In view of what the Secretary of State has said on the one hand is actually taking place, and in view of my reference to Robert Burns, may I commend to him this quotation:

Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order; I should caution the house that if the Secretary of State speaks now he will close the debate.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Before the minister closes the debate, there are one or two comments I should like to make. I do not intend to make a speech. I understand that this afternoon one of the members from Halifax referred to an investigation that the board is conducting into

winter navigation on the St. Lawrence. I merely want to indicate my interest in this subject and to say that I hope the minister, when he is replying tonight or at a later stage, will give us an up to date report on how far they have proceeded with this project. It is one which is very important. I know that the members from Halifax are interested in it, just as I am.

I do want to reiterate the thoughts of my colleagues on this side of the house. I agree, of course, with the principle of this bill, but I subscribe also to the reservations my colleagues have put forward.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): I thank the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell) for raising the question of the projects that were put through the board by the previous administration. These are being carried out. I gave directions that they were to continue with the work that was started. I think it would be a little early for me to attempt to give any progress report on this investigation, but it is going forward. It was initiated by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming) when he was responsible to parliament for the board. The board has done some preliminary work, but it is quite a big subject and I would not expect that in a great hurry we would have the kind of investigation that would impress anyone very much, particularly since the subject is slightly controversial.

I do not believe that the amiable member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Muir) really expects me to run the department of northern affairs. I will let him continue to deal with the minister and I am sure, since he is a persuasive member, he will get his way.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Would you speak to the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen)? I understand he is on the treasury board.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is nothing that gives me greater pleasure than to speak to the Minister of Labour. I do it almost hourly.

The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. MacEwan) made about as constructive a speech as I have heard for some time from the Tory benches. I should like to thank him for giving me a chance to say something about a question which I believe does merit some attention in the debate on the second reading of the bill, namely the relationship between the area development agency of the department of industry and the Atlantic development board. The department of industry bill has been approved by this house and, I believe, this evening is probably starting its way through the other and more difficult branch of parliament. I hope this department

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]