

*Official Languages*

• (4:10 p.m.)

In fact, the revision of our constitution must concern all the provinces which should be present as equal partners.

The establishment of a Bilingual Districts Advisory Board is, to my mind, a related question. There is no question of creating a second parliament or a second constitutional conference, but merely of recognizing bilingual districts.

Mr. Speaker, just as it would not be logical for a constitutional conference to invite only five to ten officials, at the discretion of the governor in council, neither would it be logical to ask only five to ten persons, at the discretion of the government, to sit on that Bilingual Districts Advisory Board.

In concluding, I would like the government to study the proposal of the hon. member for Cardigan. I want to congratulate him on his willingness to co-operate with the government, while attempting to improve the law which should serve the interests of all Canadians.

It is therefore quite logical and fair that each province be represented, as well as the Northwest Territories, on the Bilingual Districts Advisory Board.

[*English*]

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I shall not detain the house very long. I simply wish to start by complimenting the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) who has shown glimpses of the wit and discernment which I am sure will some day make him a great parliamentarian, particularly when he supports amendments offered by this party. I think he has put forward very succinct and valid reasons for his and his party's support of the amendment offered by the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. McQuaid).

I should like first to deal with the merits of the substance which have been more than enumerated by the hon. member for Cardigan and the hon. member for Lotbinière and point out two or three areas of discussion which may not have been dealt with. I must also say I am very surprised that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) made such a weak defence. He did not direct his attention to the merits of the substance of the matter. His defence in effect was a procedural one which I propose to demolish to the extent it has not been demolished by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis).

The hon. member for York South, who is the only member so far to take up the cudgels for the government or attempt to rationalize

[Mr. Fortin.]

the government's position, has made a very fine philosophical statement which is the sort of thing which might be offered during a lecture to justify under certain circumstances not having a detailed type of representation on certain federal boards. This might be delightful, but we must live with the situation as it exists today where secondary governments are now comprised of provincial governments to the extent that there are 10 of them in confederation. We can forget all about what the hon. member for York South said in that type of approach because we must get down to the realities of life in respect of this bill.

The government, for reasons which it must have considered adequate, has directed the attention of the advisory board by clause 14 and also clause 15, because we are referred to clause 15 by clause 14, to the need to negotiate with provincial governments. If the advisory board had been set up in terms of a direction to the Governor in Council to appoint an advisory board of not fewer than and not more than ten members and to refrain from in any way trying to identify the areas from which the personnel on the board should come, then the hon. member for York South in making his representation on behalf of the government would be making a fairly good case. But the government did not do that. The government did not stop there. A board is mentioned with representation from the several provinces or principal regions. There is an indication of a recognition of the fact that because of the peculiarities of this legislation and the way it is to be administered it is desirable to have this brought about.

The government recognizes the Canadian system half way. Clause 15 points out very plainly in respect of the advisory board:

—and after holding such public hearings, if any, as it considers necessary and after consultation with the government of each of the provinces—

That is subclause 1. Subclause 2 in effect goes on to constitute the board as the agent for and on behalf of the government to negotiate draft agreements and to implement parts of the principles which are involved in this bill with the provincial governments. That being the case, the government itself in this bill has made the case for the proposal made by the hon. member for Cardigan; the government has justified it. I am not saying that each member from a province constitutes an ambassador or minister in negotiating separately and severally with the provinces, but