

Government Organization

Here is another excerpt:

A quick glance at the bill intended to establish this new department illustrates one major aspect. It is not a matter of pouring tremendous sums of money into underdeveloped regions; it involves the association of responsible people for the achievement of renewal projects. There will be some money invested, surely, as loans for new industries, for guarantees involving modernization, and in the way of subsidies for specific purposes.

As the new super-department will be granted the highest appropriations among all the other departments, the Canadian government is clearly indicating its serious concern over the economic deterioration of too many areas.

There is a need for balance. Some regions cannot be left to perish and huge tracts of land deplorably eroded and on the verge of being abandoned cannot be left to their own fate. Political quarrels never produce equilibrium. Co-operation is not a humiliating factor and it is the sole successful process.

Mr. Chairman, on concluding my remarks, I wish every success to the minister responsible for this department. Considering his efforts in the past in other departments and agencies, he will contribute to the achievements of this new department.

• (4:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Chairman, I rise to participate in this debate with a good deal of interest even though we have had to drag out the substance of the debate off and on over the past few weeks since the bill was introduced in February. I must admit that I continue to be somewhat disappointed that the minister has not been able to shed more light on some of the relevant questions in respect of this important enterprise. I have been amazed that the minister has not been able to give us more information on this bill as a result of the questions we have asked in the last few weeks.

The minister might have shed more light this afternoon on this subject in answer to several questions relating to the substance of the legislation we are supposed to receive later this session in respect of the whole problem of industrial incentives and assistance. Two or three weeks ago I asked the minister when that legislation would be introduced in order that we might examine it in connection with the legislation before us today. He said it could not be introduced yet because it had not been drafted but he would give us some indication of what it involved. He indicated he would inform us of the general framework in order that we might understand it during our examination of this

[*Mr. Clermont.*]

bill. Unless my hearing was not functioning the minister did not make any specific statements in respect of this important area.

The bill now before us largely centres on the whole question of industrial development in disadvantaged regions of this country. Surely we are entitled to have information in this regard from the minister. If he is not prepared to give it this afternoon, I hope that after the general roster of speakers on the first clause has been exhausted he will give us a supplementary statement. Such a statement would make our work much easier. It is not fair to the many individuals and provincial governments involved in this whole matter not to have the information necessary to co-ordinate provincial attacks on regional disparity.

Several weeks ago when introducing this bill the minister made a statement to the effect that many other interesting programs would be reviewed. It is important to us to know the specific programs to be reviewed. A number of speakers have outlined the ramifications of government intervention in terms of economic works in this country which do not fall within the responsibility of this minister. We should know what programs are to be considered with the view of possible alteration or change, especially in respect of the regulations which apply to those programs. This is particularly important to the provinces involved.

Most of the provincial legislatures are now in session. If changes are to be implemented it is important that this information be given as early as possible. The minister was unable to say previously whether or not a special effort was made to attract large scale industry to the Atlantic region. He indicated that this subject would be dealt with during the course of this debate. I hope we will have some further word in this regard.

I was interested to hear the minister indicate that he plans to introduce an amendment. While the amendment may not contain many words, I think it is fundamental. Perhaps it indicates an increasing awareness and understanding on the part of the government that consultation, co-ordination and co-operation with the provincial governments is a necessity. I am sure the effort the minister is making in respect of regional disparity will prove to be vital.

I find it difficult to understand how the minister's amendment is going to change the effect of clause 26(1) and, more importantly,