

Atlantic Development Board Act

I want to put a question to the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) which he could perhaps answer later. It concerns the question of the tie-in between the Atlantic development board, the area development agency in the new department of industry. I do not want to refer at length to the previous debate, but I asked this question of the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Drury) when Bill No. C-74 respecting the setting up of a department of industry was before the house. Then later on, in debate on clause 11, the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming) repeated the question. The Minister of Defence Production said, as reported on page 1864 of *Hansard*:

While I have not entered into the duties and had an opportunity to explore the problem, I would think the Atlantic development board, with the particular responsibilities it has, is, in a sense, the area development agency for the maritimes—

So they appear to be one and the same thing. I think this question should be straightened out. The *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* for July 6, 1962 headlined the following: "Minister assures miners forest program will continue". A meeting was held at this time, to which reference was made in the house today by the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen), attended by himself as chairman, the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Nicholson), the minister of northern affairs, the finance minister, and the minister of mines. According to the *Chronicle-Herald*, the Minister of Labour was quoted as saying:

Concerning his own hopes of setting up machinery to provide financial assistance for studies to determine likely employment changes, Mr. MacEachen said that this was discussed in conjunction with means whereby the area development agency in the new department of industry, and the Atlantic development board, could assist along these lines.

I hope this is not another case of what we have seen happen before, where the Minister of Labour says that \$500 will be given to purchasers of homes built in the winter time, and then the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) comes along with a different line. I should like this point clarified, because it is a most important matter: Is the area development agency the Atlantic development board under the department of industry? We do not want too many boards or agencies. What we want primarily is to assist in getting industry into the Atlantic area.

I am not sure whether this is the best legislation, and until the committee stage I will not refer to any clauses. But on reading the bill I am wondering whether the present members of the board, who are now given a term of only one year, can be reappointed. One clause of the bill says that after two terms a member of the board cannot be reappointed. I do not know whether

the present members of the board are presently in their first term and "reappointment for one year" covers their second term. If that is the case, the Secretary of State definitely said on the resolution stage that these members were eligible for reappointment, but they would not be. That is another matter I would like cleared up.

The Secretary of State is the minister in charge of the Atlantic development board. During the budget debate I said that I hoped either the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) or the Solicitor General (Mr. MacNaught) would head the board, being native born. But that is not the case. However, it is better than the proposal put forward in the last session by the Secretary of State, that a minister of the crown should be chairman of the Atlantic development board. When I put a question to him on resolution stage he said that he had thought it over, given the matter second thought, but that it would be rather difficult to get legislation of this type through—and certainly his deductions in that regard are correct.

The amount of the fund has been brought up by other hon. members on this side of the house. The danger, as far as I can see, is that this amount could be used in one area or on one project only, leaving nothing for other areas. This point has been made by others, also. I listened with interest to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Regan) who spoke this afternoon, and I enjoyed hearing from him. I noted that he spoke generally on a number of topics, among which was the matter of research. If I did not hear him correctly he will certainly correct me, but I think he stated that he thought that quite a bit of research could be done by the Atlantic development board and that if it was necessary that outside industry and firms be brought in to do research. I believe he stated that he thought quite a bit of research should be done by the Atlantic development board and that outside assistance and outside firms should be brought in for this purpose. If he had read the original act closely he would have seen that research is included among the terms of reference of the board. Perhaps he should look at the act again and go over its terms a little more carefully. He is one learned in the law, and I would have thought he would have paid more attention to the original act even if it was brought forward by the former government.

Tying in with the suggestion and request I made first regarding the area development agency and the Atlantic development board, I think the clause in the bill which will terminate the Atlantic development board in 1969 is more important than ever. If the