

Government Organization

On clause 38—*Staff*

Mr. McGrath: Before this clause carries, would the minister tell the committee what salary the government has in mind for the official who is to be designated as secretary to the council?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Unfortunately, I cannot. Perhaps tomorrow or some other day, I can indicate the salary range. I referred a few minutes ago to a secretary, but I believe the council will have the services of a senior executive officer. I do not know what the salary will be, but I shall be happy to give the information to the hon. member as soon as I am able to do so.

Mr. McGrath: This brings up an interesting question. I understand the Director General of the Atlantic Development Board is now the assistant deputy minister of the department. Will Dr. Weeks have any particular responsibilities with regard to the operations of the council?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): He will surely have a general responsibility as assistant deputy minister. In fact, I think Dr. Weeks will always have a special responsibility as far as the maritimes are concerned because he knows the region very well. I know he is well regarded in the region, and rightly so, and I think it is our intention to use his services as much as we can.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Will the minister indicate whether the position of secretary will be full time or whether it is to be considered only a part time responsibility?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I see it as a full time position.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 39—*Regulations*

Mr. Horner: I have remained silent throughout the most controversial parts of this piece of legislation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Horner: I have remained silent for a number of reasons. First, I wanted to learn the exact intent of the legislation. Second, I wanted to hear evidence which would prove to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that my fears with regard to this bill were groundless. I can only say that having sat through a good deal of this debate, and having read those

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

parts of it which took place during my absence, many of those fears have still to be set at rest.

Clause 39, which we are now considering, says the Governor in Council may make regulations defining the expression "work or facility for the economic expansion of a special area." Mr. Chairman, I live in the province of Alberta where there are two special areas. They have existed ever since 1935. Since that time parliament has passed legislation dealing with designated areas, specific areas in need of development, yet the areas of which I speak, singled out as special areas as far back as 1935, have not been able to qualify for one reason or another for the benefits provided under the legislation. There has been a great deal of discussion about FRED, ARDA and APEC. ARDA was held out to the special areas of Alberta as being the answer to the whole problem. Now, we find ARDA and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, which has been of tremendous benefit to the region concerned, gobbled up by this powerful minister who is to be in charge of everything to do with special areas.

I want the hon. gentleman to take a special look at the areas designated in the Province of Alberta since 1935. These are areas where there is a high birthrate and long life expectancy, areas which satisfy many of the criteria outlined under the ARDA scheme, but where there is a slow rate of growth and few opportunities for productive employment. These areas might well be described as the desert of Alberta. Many hon. members will be surprised to learn this. Special area No. 2 was designated because of the arid conditions which exist there. As long ago as the early 'twenties, the federal government paid the fares of settlers moving out because there was no opportunity to find employment there. Settlers were moved out from 1921 to 1939; the area of which I speak is roughly rectangular in shape, about 100 miles by 180 miles in the east central part of Alberta between Calgary and the Saskatchewan border, well within the Palliser triangle. P.F.R.A. has played a prominent part in helping people to live in this region.

Development in these two special areas has fallen behind. Now, we are giving this benevolent god, one might say, who is going to bring about great regional development, extensive powers under the proposed legislation. I have grave doubts about even his great capacity for promoting such development. In fact, I have grave doubts about the ability of