

Dominion-Provincial Relations

to reply to the speech made by the Solicitor General, but he did more than that. He has strayed from the subject. Until then, it had been a matter of determining whether the bill, as drafted, was acceptable to the province of Quebec, which might have been relevant to a certain point in the discussion of clause 1. But he is clearly moving away now from the required relevancy at this stage of the proceedings.

Mr. Leduc: Mr. Chairman, I want to respect your ruling. However, I would like the Minister of Finance to give us an answer, to tell us whether or not there actually was an agreement.

Mr. Tremblay: What difference could it make to you?

Mr. English: Mr. Chairman, a few days ago I heard the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) refer to *Le Devoir* and even read an article from that paper; today, I again listened to a reading of this same article by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill).

If those hon. members were allowed to quote a newspaper report in the house, I honestly believe that I also have the right to read what has been reported about the meeting held in Joliette last Sunday by the Hon. Antonio Barrette. Here is what the newspaper said:

An hon. Member: It is the paper *Montreal-Matin*.

Mr. English: You quote from *Le Devoir* because it suits your purpose; so you cannot blame me for quoting the article from *Montreal-Matin*.

Mr. Brassard (Lapointe): What you are saying is odious for *Le Devoir*.

Mr. English: You said it yourself, my friend. So, here is the article:

The premier made this statement while taking to task Mr. Jean Lesage and his two attendants, the three of them former federal members.

A second choice.

"Do you think, he said, that Mr. Lesage, would be the leader of the Liberal party in the province of Quebec—

The Chairman: Order. I will remind the hon. member for Gaspé—but first I ask him to resume his seat—that the article quoted by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill) dealt with a statement concerning the possibility of an agreement between the Quebec government and the federal government. If the hon. member for Gaspé wants to quote an item which would prove a statement to the contrary, or a different one, I have no objection, but he may not quote any part of a statement which is not relevant to what we are considering now, and within the limits just indicated.

Mr. English: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what I am doing. The name of Mr. Barrette has been mentioned. As the names of Mr. Barrette and Mr. Lesage were mentioned, I think it is my duty and my privilege to quote Mr. Barrette. Are hon. members ashamed of my referring to Mr. Lesage?

And this is precisely what was said, Mr. Chairman:

Instead of taking advice from his representatives, Mr. Lesage went to see Mr. Lionel Chevrier in Ottawa. He wanted to continue the traditional "federal clique" which, at the time, had wanted to impose—

The Chairman: Order. I fail to see the relevancy of the item quoted by the hon. member for Gaspé. He might perhaps now discuss the bill according to the directions I gave.

Mr. English: Mr. Chairman, that is precisely what I was coming to. I did not want to be accused of quoting only what suits us, I wanted to quote the whole item. They always quote what suits them; so I wanted to quote the whole article. I am coming to what I wanted to point out, Mr. Chairman, and I may have taken too much of a round-about way, but I hope that you will allow me to conclude my quotation so that what I wanted to say may be easier to understand.

To my mind, Mr. Chairman, I am in order in doing so.

Mr. Barrette stated that the provincial government, in all letters exchanged with Ottawa on the matter, never mentioned any understanding or agreement.

In this whole matter of understanding and agreement, this is what happened. The Hon. Mr. Barrette, jointly with the present government, merely came to the conclusion that was the most practical in the interests of our universities. It had to come to that, because the province of Quebec could not always be satisfied with receiving gifts from the federal government; it had to get its share of the taxation field. What was being done by the Liberal administration of our hon. friends opposite was an injustice. The moneys are now levied as corporation taxes at the rate of 1 per cent. This means that the Quebec government is now collecting what it had been unjustly deprived of by the Liberals. That is just what the Hon. Mr. Barrette meant. That is exactly what he meant by an agreement between the federal and the provincial governments.

And our hon. friends opposite, wishing to carry on the policy of the former Liberal