

be due to the fact that the legislatures have not been consulted. I am quite sure that this bill as it stands would not be approved without substantial amendments, if it were put before the legislatures of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and others.

Perhaps someone will say that this is just a phrase coined a long time ago—a legal fiction originating in the days of the original British North America Act, that these powers are assigned “exclusively to the legislatures.” I suggest that it is not a legal fiction, because its history is part of the history of the struggle of the legislatures of the provinces and of the Parliament of Canada to control the executive, and that struggle is not over yet.

I suggest that when consideration is being given to the method by which something less temporary than this present arrangement is to be worked out, consideration also be given at that time to consultation with the legislatures, and that some method be arrived at by which, even if there is some delay, it will be laid down that there shall be consent of the legislatures—the owners of these powers—before any deal is made in connection with them.

Finally, I wish to make a suggestion, for what it is worth. Many are thinking now in terms of some spectacular things that can be done as we approach the celebration of the anniversary of Confederation. I suggest that when the appropriate discussions have taken place, and when this Tax Structure Committee—which I understand is to have representatives of the federal Government and the provinces—has come forward with perhaps a more permanent solution of this problem than we now have, there be called as part of the Confederation celebration, a joint meeting of the federal Parliament and all provincial legislatures to discuss this matter in a formal way to give the sanction of the provincial legislatures to the next expedient that we work out for the period which begins with the 100th year of Confederation. I can see some objections to that, but I am sure that some hall large enough to accommodate all who would attend could be found and that, if the preliminary work was done, ratification by the legislatures of our next expedient could be obtained within a reasonable length of time, and that we could then, in a way that everybody would understand, make it quite clear that this original division of powers, with modifications, if necessary, can still be worked out.

I took from Senator Crerar's remarks that he felt it might work without much change. I am of the view that it is not quite that simple, because problems which were purely local or provincial 95 years ago certainly have the colour of national problems now.

However, such a constituent assembly discussing these and other problems of the Constitution would make it clear that we really believe that the answer to the future of a great and greater Canada is an understanding and adherence to real co-operative federalism, in the best sense of the phrase.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker (Hon. Mr. Leonard): Honourable senators, it has been moved by the honourable Senator Pouliot, seconded by the honourable Senator Grant, that this debate be now adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Honourable senators, this motion is a surprise to me. I understood that it was the desire of all honourable senators, if possible, to deal with this bill to its conclusion today. I know that Senator Hayden has some appointments later.

I do not want to impose this view in any way, particularly upon Senator Pouliot. I wondered whether he might give an indication of when he proposes to speak. Do you propose to adjourn the debate until tomorrow, Senator?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I propose to adjourn the debate until 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock this afternoon; however, I can proceed now, if it is the pleasure of the Senate.

Some Hon. Senators: Go ahead.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, I had left for my hometown, but I came back to Ottawa because I considered that this debate is the most important that we have had for a long time.

I have listened with careful attention to the speeches that were made by my distinguished colleagues, and I still hope that there will be some understanding between the Parliament of Canada, or the Government of Canada, and the legislatures of the provinces in order that on both sides they will mind their own business in dealing with taxation and expenditures.

This is not new. Fifteen years ago I had the privilege of addressing a social club at Charlottetown, which I did not call the cradle of Confederation, because it was not true; but I called it a shrine. I saw the so-called Confederation table there, around which the Fathers of Confederation sat for a few minutes, and then rose and shook hands and decided to meet again the same month in the City of Quebec. That was all that was done in Charlottetown.

I have visited and admired the Island. It is one of the loveliest parts of Canada, but I find that the publicity that has been given to Charlottetown as the cradle of Confederation is most unbelievable. Nothing happened