

Dominion-Provincial Relations

grants which seems to be of doubtful constitutional validity and which is certainly an invasion of the normal jurisdiction of a province. So far as we can learn from the contradictory statements of the ministers and the correspondence of the Prime Minister, this invasion of the rights of the province of Quebec seems to have been approved and accepted as satisfactory, indeed, as a magnificent solution by the present premier of Quebec.

We have done our best to remove the objectionable features in this bill and the people of Quebec will now be able to decide the question for themselves. We believe that within a year the present government will have to come back to this parliament and ask us to enact the constructive amendment we offered today. Meanwhile, we are not going to repudiate the constructive achievements of the St. Laurent government in the field of equalization of aid to universities.

On this bill the division is not in our party but on the other side of the house in the Conservative party, and that division has been reflected in the votes and the absences we have seen today. As a matter of fact, on one vote there were only 12 Quebec Conservative members from the other side of the house who voted against our amendment.

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member cannot count.

Mr. Chevrier: Conservative members from the province of Quebec who voted against our amendment.

Mr. Pallett: That statement is completely inaccurate.

Mr. Chevrier: That division has been reflected on more than one occasion during the course of the voting.

The Minister of Finance has told us that this arrangement was perfectly satisfactory to the government of Quebec. Why, then, were most of the Conservative members from Quebec absent from the house and why did they fail to support the government on our amendments this afternoon and this evening?

I want to repeat that the division of opinion is not within our ranks, but within the ranks of the Conservative party.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister rising to speak?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): To reply.

Mr. Pickersgill: On a point of order, sir, the minister has spoken.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Third reading is not a substantive motion and there is no right

to reply. I am afraid I cannot hear the Minister of Finance. Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. Balcer: On a point of order, as a member of this house I want to protest against the words of the hon. member for Laurier with respect to the presence of the Quebec Conservative members in the house at the time of the voting.

Mr. Chevrier: There were only 12.

Mr. Balcer: There were more than that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken on the motion for third reading; I moved it. If you rule I have no right to reply to what has been said I will not press the point.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is the rule.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I do wish to say this on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Laurier violated—

Mr. Chevrier: No; I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am raising a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I have not recognized any point of order. The Solicitor General knows that he is entitled to rise and speak if he wishes. If the minister has a point of order—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I want to raise a similar point, Mr. Speaker. There is a rule in this house that no hon. member may reflect on the vote of any member of the house, and what—

Mr. Chevrier: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—the hon. member for Laurier has done has been to reflect on the vote of a number of members of this house, and he has done it in a way that he must realize is a very great injustice to hon. members of the house, which I am quite sure they will be pleased to demonstrate to him on the vote which will now take place.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I think I am entitled to reply to the point of order.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order. What the Minister of Finance raises is a matter of privilege of members of the house, and I will hear the hon. member for Laurier.

Mr. Chevrier: I do not want to pursue the matter unduly but I submit with deference, Mr. Speaker, that it is the right of any hon. member, as it has been on more than one