

Dominion-Provincial Relations

least calling an entente, and about which we told parliament—was made between the premier of Quebec of that day and Mr. St. Laurent whereby the institutions and the recipients were determined by a joint commission of the minister of finance of the federal government and the minister of finance of the provincial government, and the grants were paid in complete conformity with that joint arrangement. Accompanying the payments was a formula which the St. Laurent government accepted from Mr. Duplessis as a suitable formula. Then, when the minister of finance wrote to Mr. Duplessis the next year to ask if this arrangement could be continued on that basis—he wrote in October and he wrote again in December—the minister never received the courtesy of any reply whatsoever. That is the truth of this matter. The St. Laurent government did everything possible; it leaned over backwards to recognize the autonomy of the province in this field. It is a shocking perversion of history to suggest the contrary. If the provincial government had been willing to carry on that joint commission, there is no reason on earth why the universities of Quebec should have lost the millions of dollars they did.

I would have said nothing about this if the hon. member for Bellechasse had not chosen to misinterpret—well, to misrepresent—what was done by the greatest French Canadian, by the greatest Canadian of our time. When any hon. member talks about “la petite politique” in this country he had better not associate it with the name of St. Laurent.

(Translation):

Mr. Deschatelets: Quite the centralizer.

Mr. Johnson: We shall see after June 22 who is the centralizer.

(Text):

An hon. Member: Why did you get rid of him?

Mr. Pallett: You would not even eat with him?

An hon. Member: Why did you ditch him?

(Translation):

Mr. Fortin: Why did you give him the sack?

Mr. Pigeon: Why did you not stand up for Mr. St. Laurent?

Mr. Dorion: Whatever the hon. member might have just said, my feelings for him remain unchanged.

Mr. Fortin: He likes that.

Mr. Dorion: However, it does seem to me that the former prime minister, the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent, would have liked to

receive such a chorus of praise when, at the last Liberal convention, he was simply put in the discard.

Mr. Rouleau: Out of order.

Mr. Fortin: Cry over your sins.

Mr. Bourget: What did you do to Mr. Diefenbaker in December 1956? You shut the doors on him, you, the Quebec members. What did you do on that occasion?

Mr. Fortin: You repudiated your leaders.

Mr. Bourget: No, I never repudiated my leaders.

Mr. Johnson: Simmer down.

An hon. Member: The member for Levis—

Mr. Rouleau: The member for Chambly had better join his brother back in Quebec, in the natural gas business.

(Text):

The Chairman: I believe the discussion has strayed a little bit in the last while. One or two words are uttered which suggest replies of all kinds. I therefore urge all hon. members to come back to the subject matter of the discussion. I know it is not easy at times. I now call on the hon. member for Bellechasse.

(Translation):

Mr. Dorion: Besides, although I was improvising earlier, I think that on one occasion,—and I will check on this—I did refer to an order in council passed in 1952. I referred to the Minister of Finance, because the Minister of Finance, by the very terms of the act, is responsible for its application.

Mr. Graftey: Very centralizing, indeed.

Mr. Dorion: I will check, but I am quite convinced that I mentioned the order in council especially since some of my remarks were about that order in council when I took part in the debate on second reading.

I know very well that such a settlement is reached through an order in council and I even gave the number when I spoke on second reading. I would not want my earlier remarks to be misunderstood.

Reference has been made to the correspondence exchanged with Mr. St. Laurent and I must add that, on second reading, my sincerity was such that no one can make any unfavourable remark on that score.

Mr. Rouleau: Out of order, out of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dorion: During that debate, I did say—

Mr. Chevrier: It is a repetition.

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Chairman, the member for Bellechasse is completely out of order, and I would ask you to call him to order.