**Mr. Pickersgill:** The minister would have been draped in two or three flags. This is beyond my comprehension. The lack of frankness throughout this whole business is appalling. We could not find out at the resolution stage what was in the bill and when the bill came down it was a great shock to many of us. Now we cannot find out what took place between the premier of Quebec and the Minister of Finance and we have no means of knowing whether or not this bill will meet the problem. It seems to me the minister should settle that question at once and I suggest to the hon. gentleman that just for once he deal with the question and not indulge in one of the irrelevant harangues to which he is so attached.

**An hon. Member:** Like the one you are making now.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Chairman, as usual, our friends opposite are trying to play on words and to raise a cloud of dust and smoke around that question.

I should like simply, for the moment, to deal with that so-called contradiction which exists only in the minds of the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) and of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill)—between my words and those of the Quebec premier. If you read what I said, you will note that I mentioned the fact that Mr. Duplessis had stated he was in a position to submit a concrete proposal to the ministers in Ottawa. Then, I spoke about that concrete proposal and said that it was Mr. Sauve who had submitted it, and that finally, Mr. Barrette felt that the bill was in keeping with Mr. Duplessis' proposal. I always referred to it as a proposal.

The hon. members opposite are basing their argument on the report of a columnist of *Le Devoir* who wrote that Mr. Barrette stated that there had been no question of an agreement with Ottawa.

We do know that what Mr. Barrette meant was that the question of grants to Quebec universities, which have been deprived of them for too long, is now in process of being settled, and in such a way that the federal government will not encroach upon provincial autonomy in matters of education. We do not require the province of Quebec to sign any agreement whatsoever. We allow the province of Quebec to adopt the legislation it wishes; we do not oblige Mr. Barrette to sign or to ask anything; through our legislation, we allow any province to act according to principles of autonomy in matters of education.

[Mr. Brassard (Lapointe).]

That is what Mr. Barrette meant. And that is what he said. I repeat, there is absolutely no contradiction between what I said here and what Mr. Barrette said a few days ago.

**Mr. Leduc:** Mr. Chairman, last night I asked the same question of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) in order to find out definitely whether or not there has been an agreement. I was very happy to hear the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer) tell us that the Quebec government has settled the problem. That is true, it is quite true, and I commend the Quebec government for passing the appropriate legislation during its last session.

**Mr. Balcer:** Try to get together on this.

**Mr. Leduc:** And in Quebec, the Quebec Liberals all supported those pieces of legislation.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Why does Mr. Lesage denounce the legislation?

**Mr. Leduc:** They supported the legislation suggested by Mr. Barrette. Why? Because all those bills had previously been put forward and recommended by Mr. Lapalme.

**Mr. Johnson:** Why did Mr. Lesage denounce that bill?

**Mr. Leduc:** And now that the legislation has been passed in Quebec, the province of Quebec has no need for the alternative plan placed before this house. The proof—

**Mr. Balcer:** Would the hon. member allow me a question?

**Mr. Leduc:** Yes.

**Mr. Balcer:** Does he mean to say that the Liberal members in the Quebec legislature feel that the federal government should not offer deductibility in this case, and that Quebec corporations should be subject to double taxation? Is that what he means?

**Mr. Leduc:** There is no need for the principle of "deductibility" to give fair treatment to the province of Quebec in the matter of grants to universities. The proof is that the Quebec government, after passing this last bill, discussed the matter with the universities and told them to go to Ottawa and collect the $25 million that Mr. St. Laurent and the Liberal party had set aside for them.

**The Chairman:** Order. It may be in order for the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Leduc)