

Dominion-Provincial Relations

a very limited extent, in the event that all the provinces opt out of a certain program. Perhaps I should not use the phrase "opt out", but if they contract out of a certain program in a certain department. But if only half of the provinces avail themselves of the opportunity under the bill the other half will remain on a joint basis and the federal government will have to maintain the same supervisory service but perhaps at a higher unit cost. Possibly the minister will want to make some comment in regard to that point.

In any event, I am sure that a number of my colleagues will have more to say about the bill. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind what I have said about the situation prior to the bill having been negotiated, I say we should make no further commitments with regard to pensions and what have you until a dominion-provincial conference is held on the priorities of the requirements of the provinces, so that we will know where we are going and they too will know where they are going. This has been called for by many of the premiers and I think it makes eminent sense. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton):

That Bill C-142 be not read a second time until further consideration has been given to the priorities of their requirements desired by the provinces of Canada and its territories in those fields of jurisdiction indicated in the schedules of the said bill, such priorities to be established at a federal-provincial conference convened for the said purpose.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, before you put the amendment, I think the hon. member said he would permit me to ask him a question.

Mr. Lambert: Yes.

Mr. Pickersgill: My question arises because of his summarizing the bill as "plus ça change plus c'est la même chose". I just wondered whether he had been able to convince his leader about that, in view of all the publicity.

Mr. Mandziuk: Why do you worry about that?

Mr. Lambert: The hon. member may be smirking in self-satisfaction over what he thinks is a pointed question, but may I say that much of what has been attributed to the stand of the party in regard to this matter has been very speculative, imaginative and unfounded. Therefore the views I have

been putting forward as summarized in the amendment are those of this party.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. gentleman permit another question? Is it true then that his leader has another daisy that he is pulling the petals off?

Mr. Churchill: How is the unhappy warrior getting along on your side?

Mr. Lambert: Again the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) is indulging in witticisms. Perhaps he should have exercised them on the hon. member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Davis: Would the hon. member permit me to ask a question? Is the hon. member saying that Bill No. C-142, the so-called opting out legislation, cannot possibly lead to the balkanization of Canada but quite the reverse, in that it is leaving too much power in Ottawa's hands?

Mr. Lambert: Maybe I used the word balkanized. Certainly it can balkanize. There are a lot of things involved. It is not only the bill. Balkanization can be done by the constitution.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Are you putting the motion, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Maybe the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands could carry on with his speech for a minute or two and then allow me to interrupt him.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I would rather wait for your ruling because I prefer not to be interrupted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Then I will read the motion and I do so provisionally. Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, moves:

That Bill C-142 be not read a second time until further consideration has been given to the priorities of their requirements desired by the provinces of Canada and its territories in those fields of jurisdiction indicated in the schedules of the said bill, such priorities to be established at a federal-provincial conference convened for the said purpose.

Mr. Pickersgill: Having heard you read it, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether it is grammatical.

Mr. Churchill: How would you know?

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I was greatly interested in the comments of the hon. member for Ed-