

Mr. Bourget: Certainly.

Mr. Flynn: Indeed. That is precisely what I expected the hon. member for Levis to say, because when this bill was discussed in this house, he never offered any compensatory formula. He laughed at the Quebec government which was against it and he always emphasized that Quebec would lose millions through its own fault, but he has never suggested an alternative formula. This is a shameful turn-about.

Mr. Bourget: If the minister wants me to reply immediately, I am ready to do so.

Mr. Flynn: If the hon. member for Levis wishes to reply, he may do so, provided he does not make a new speech before I have finished mine.

Mr. Bourget: I will answer the minister right now because he knows full well that when our party was in power, that is until June 1957, we never had the opportunity of discussing that with the then Quebec premier. The minister knows that I am telling the truth. We never had an opportunity for such a discussion because Mr. Duplessis always refused to co-operate with the Liberal government of the time.

Mr. Flynn: Mr. Chairman, I do not have enough time to discuss that point but, whether he is right or wrong, the hon. member for Levis is not in a better position, since he states today that any province will be entitled to a compensatory formula, whereas in the past he took a take it or leave it attitude.

I have read the official report and the statements made by the hon. member for Levis. He is not going to come and tell me that his attitude was one of conciliation at that time. Never did he suggest that the government of which he was a member was willing to offer the province of Quebec some compensation in that field.

I said that there are programs which fall perfectly within the federal jurisdiction. I shall only say a word about the legislation concerned, since, irrelevant as that might be at this stage in our proceedings, its principle has been discussed. That act was passed by parliament last year because the federal government recognized its responsibilities in the employment field, employment being directly related to trade and economy. The measure was introduced with these considerations in mind.

Now, because technical training comes within the field of education, which is under provincial jurisdiction, the act provides for

an agreement with those provinces which may wish to take advantage of it, precisely to organize this technical and vocational training. When the act was introduced last year, did the hon. member for Levis and his friends offer a compensation formula?

Mr. Tremblay: No.

Mr. Flynn: Did they suggest there should be one? Not at all.

Mr. Bourget: You are the ones who refused it.

Mr. Flynn: You repudiated your own past. From considerations of opportunism, the Liberal party, at their convention, adopted this formula, this compensation idea which is a complete reversal of the Liberal party philosophy, as formulated in Mr. Maurice Lamontagne's book on Canadian federalism. I suggest the hon. member for Levis read it again and he will see once again the tremendous turn-about he has made.

Mr. Bourget: You are past-masters in turn-about.

Mr. Flynn: Not at all. One last point. As far as we are concerned, when a province feels that some legislation affects what is its exclusive jurisdiction, we are ready to consider changes, and especially to bring in a compensation formula.

When the previous government initiated the university grants system, neither my hon. friend from Levis nor the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier), nor any one of their colleagues said a word about compensation. Take it or leave it, they said. Indeed, as a result of that stand, the province of Quebec lost millions—

Mr. Brassard (Lapointe): We did not lose millions.

Mr. Flynn:—millions were lost until 1955. The hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Brassard) should check before he tries to contradict me. It is only later that the previous government decided that the amounts would remain in the custody of the Canadian universities foundation.

When we came to power, we recognized the claims of the province of Quebec and offered a compensation formula which the former administration had accepted and which the new administration of the province of Quebec—which is much closer to our hon. friends—has accepted again.

That was a practical attitude. It was not only wind and idle talk. Those were not meaningless and unrealistic formulas which could