

*Federal-Provincial Relations*

thing. The problems of 100 odd years ago are not the same as those of today. I say it is consistent to define and defend a strong federal cause with the proposition of a local self-agency where some people at the local level know what is best for them and how best to govern their own affairs.

I say to the impersonal centralists who look at Canada as one uniform monolith that before you love the world and your country you must love your own community and your own province. That is one of the centrifugal principles of Progressive Conservative thought which differentiates us from the present government. Until you people learn that lesson you will continue to confront the provinces and add to the economic disaster and disunity.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Sherbrooke on a point of order.

**Mr. Grafftey:** I think I have already said to the hon. member for Sherbrooke that I would answer his question.

**Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** But I have not yet put it.

**Mr. Grafftey:** But before I would like to express an opinion on—

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi has the floor. He has already indicated that he will be glad to entertain questions at the end of his speech. The hon. member who has the floor should not be interrupted until he has completed his remarks.

**Mr. Grafftey:** We believe that there are many regional differences in this country. By the way hon. members opposite clap and hit their desks and smile, it is obvious that they do not realize the way in which this government has behaved in the last six years by confronting the provinces. One day it is Alberta. Another day it will be Quebec and the next day it might be another province. The government likes to pretend that this is one uniform country in which Ottawa has all the answers and that the cabinet has all the wisdom.

Rather than force this House into a debate concerning whether we should take a federal or provincial stand hon. members opposite should get on the telephone with their provincial counterparts, rather than carry on negotiations with the premier of Alberta as though we were almost a criminal from another country. He should not be insulted in this way and treated with confrontation. There is no use bringing in legislation like this, if the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is to continue with his arrogant politics of confrontation.

[Translation]

**Mr. Grafftey:** We must realize that here in Canada we have a confederation and not a federation. The autonomy and the rights of provinces must be respected and we must work together. I am very glad the Prime Minister intro-

[Mr. Grafftey.]

duced such a bill in this House. However, if the government's position does not change, it will be a waste of time.

**Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** The hon. member says what he thinks, but he does not think what he says.

[English]

**Mr. Grafftey:** I am not really a very old veteran of this House. However, I have been here a few years and when I hear such clapping from the other side I realize I have hit a sensitive cord.

[Translation]

I imagine that if I had the opportunity to talk seriously and intimately with my colleagues from the province of Quebec, I should try to find out whether they really agree with the attitude of this government towards the provinces. Come on, let us be realistic.

**Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** This is something else again.

**Mr. Grafftey:** If this government realized that we have a Confederation in Canada, then we must respect in the true sense of the word the autonomy and rights of the provinces. I am sure that the bill the right hon. Prime Minister introduced this afternoon will be a good thing for Canada and the provinces. But as long as—

● (1750)

[English]

—the government continues with its attitude of confrontation and lack of consultation. Again I repeat for the third or fourth time, I know that the present government loves to set down the ground rules in these debates. It is a neither-nor situation. You have to take the federal side or the side of the provinces, and they pretend always to be the only people to stand up for Canada. I say that my conception of Canada is not the same as the Prime Minister's, and as soon as he changes his attitude to the provinces there will be much more real unity in this country, and the economy will fare a whole lot better.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

## EXCISE TAX ACT AND EXCISE ACT

### SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** I indicated earlier in the day that I would return to the chair at 5.45 this afternoon in order to deal with a very important point of order raised previously, I believe first by the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker), and second by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

The question that was raised concerns the relationship between the provisions of Bill C-40 and the ways and means motion tabled by the government and concurred in by the House on December 2, 1974. The motion deals with the proposed taxation of boats as follows:

17.11. Boats, other than naval vessels, designed to be propelled primarily by motors exceeding twenty horsepower (including drive assembly for boats . . . ten per cent.