

*Dominion-Provincial Relations*

I found that we had less and less young people in the province of Quebec. I look upon Quebec universities as Canadian universities and not only as institutions of one province. We are all Canadians, and we should look upon universities in each province as contributing to our national development.

Therefore I feel we should constantly increase our support to our universities.

There are those who claim that the federal government should not interfere directly in an attempt to control education—and I stress the word “control”. However, now that we are working towards smooth relations between the federal government and the province of Quebec on the matter of grants for education, I think perhaps we should stop quarrelling and discussing procedure, and look at the purpose of this bill.

The purpose now being sought, and which in fact has been reached, is to enable Quebec universities to get grants from the federal government, or the equivalent of such grants. That is what really matters.

I was surprised at this so-called debate, because as a stranger to the province of Quebec and to the politics of the province of Quebec, all I have heard was about petty Quebec politics, something which should never have happened. Moreover, I think opposition members were wrong in taking such an attitude. Most speeches we have heard did not belong here.

**Some hon. Members:** What about the speech we just heard?

**Mr. Lambert:** You have been asking for it, because after all, gentlemen—

**Mr. Loiselle:** It is no surprise to see you fall into the trap.

**Mr. Lambert:** —after all, gentlemen, is it your privilege to—

**Mr. Habel:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the hon. member should know enough about standing orders to address himself to the Speaker, and not to hon. members as he is doing now.

**Mr. Lambert:** All right, Mr. Speaker, I shall address myself to you, and through you, to the members of the opposition to whom I was speaking directly. I was going to say that they invite such speeches, because they have no exclusive privilege to launch into all kinds of criticism without inviting rebuttal.

We thank you—

**An hon. Member:** Thank you.

**Mr. Lambert:** —for that kind of speech. I thought that was a rather narrow attitude, considering what we are trying to do. I therefore hope that after hours of election campaigning which should have been done elsewhere, we shall get the support of the hon. members opposite.

*(Text):*

I must say that this bill concerns directly the relationship between the federal government and the provincial government of the province of Quebec in so far as assistance to the universities is concerned. That is the main aim of this bill. One would have thought—certainly this statement applies to those of us who come from regions outside of the province of Quebec—that the members from the province of Quebec, and I refer to members of the opposition, while realizing that this plan had not been entirely successful in the past, instead of twisting, turning and trying to introduce some petty politics, something that was completely unnecessary in my opinion, would have said, “All right, this aim is being achieved and we must thank the good sense of other people”.

After all, if you arrogate to yourself the exclusive capacity to negotiate or to arrange things, you are certainly going to find yourself in difficulty. But if other people are able to achieve the end that you would have desired to achieve, why adopt a dog in the manger attitude? That is perhaps the best qualification I can give it, if I may be permitted that expression of “dog in the manger attitude”. I therefore felt that on this occasion I would not be accused perhaps of lecturing the house but would be regarded as making what I hope to be objective observations on a subject matter with regard to which we are pleased to see that a method has been found. We have this bill which will go to the assistance of the universities in the province of Quebec which will then receive the same measure of assistance as is being received by universities in other parts of the country. Goodness knows, Mr. Speaker, our universities throughout the country require a good deal of assistance if we are to maintain our young people at the topmost level of education to which I feel they are entitled, thereby developing and preserving the best of the intellectual capacities of our Canadian nation.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must inform the house that if the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth day of the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill. It has been an unusually