

*Dominion-Provincial Relations**(Translation):*

here, or at least that I expect we hope we are going to pass. It is to make a plea for the recognition of this co-operative federalism on the part of members of the house that I rose to speak today. I should like to suggest in closing that the famous quotation or remark of John Donne in his "Devotions XVII" can be applied here with the substitution of the word "province" or the word "man": "no province is an island, entire of itself; every province is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take only two or three minutes in discussing this matter. As hon. members know, Yukon is not yet a province but is approaching the day when it will have provincial status. At the last session of the Yukon legislative council motion No. 20 was passed by the council, in words to the following effect:

That two members of council be chosen to represent the people of the territory at the forthcoming dominion-provincial fiscal conference scheduled for July 25 to 27.

This resolution passed with the support of all members of the legislative council. Because it involved the expenditure of funds it required the approval of the commissioner of the Yukon Territory. In a letter to the Speaker of the Yukon legislative council the commissioner states as follows:

I have discussed the proposal with Ottawa and agree that it would be unwise for the Yukon to be represented at this conference. The two territories have a considerably better financial deal with the federal government than do provinces and their special position might well be endangered if they were represented at this conference.

I am diametrically opposed to the opinion of the commissioner which he states to the Speaker of the Yukon legislative council in this instance. It is only right and proper that there should be some representation at these fiscal conferences from the people of the Yukon. As I say, the council passed this resolution without any opposition whatsoever. They did it with the thought in mind, as explained to me, that members of the council should attend some of these conferences—and here I am quoting the Speaker of the Yukon legislative council:

—if only for the benefit of obtaining greater knowledge and learning the hard steps ahead before we gain provincial status—

I rose simply to say that the attitude of the administration in the Yukon in this regard is a very poor one, is a negative one and one that should be corrected. I rose to lend my wholehearted support to the request of the representatives of the people of Yukon to be represented at this conference, even if it is only as observers.

Mr. Maurice Johnson (Chambly-Rouville): Mr. Speaker, after hearing a digest of Conservative members' speeches presented in a "La Reforme" style by the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Deschatelets), I think I am justified in starting to express my views on this bill by a reference to the speech made on this matter by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) on April 26 last. I think I am not betraying his thinking if I sum up all his arguments in this way.

His remarks were an attempt to justify the arguments advanced by the former federal member for Montmagny-L'Islet, who has since become leader of the provincial Liberal party of Quebec. It had been claimed by Mr. Lesage that Bill C-56 made the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) the arbiter between the provinces and their own universities. The hon. member for Laurier went further by casting doubt on the constitutionality of that legislation. If the hon. member for Laurier was right in terming the act unconstitutional, if the provisions of the legislation implied a delegation of powers, and if that delegation of powers was contrary to the constitution, we would be forced to the conclusion that all fiscal arrangements between the federal government and the provinces since 1945 were likewise unconstitutional.

If that was the legal position of those tax rental arrangements, what else is there for us to do but pass a bill extending the tax sharing act until 1962, that is until the whole matter is reviewed at a federal-provincial conference that would finally settle the problem. That, to my mind, is the principle of Bill C-56, with the following variation:

1. Amendments to the said legislation by this bill provide a machinery whereby the federal government will be allowed to continue until 1962 obligations announced by the former government with regard to Canadian universities. We should remember that regardless of the form in which federal grants have been made so far, the fact remains that, morally, the federal government has undertaken first with regard to individual universities and then with respect to the Canadian conference of universities and the Canadian universities foundation to pay each year a certain grant, the amount of which could be raised or lowered unilaterally by the federal government.

2. Until 1962, universities will receive a set amount on which they can count. Moreover, in all provinces where there is a provincial