

Dominion-Provincial Relations

wants to be on the record officially as being forever opposed to such a move, that is up to them.

We believe this is a happy solution indeed. However, I do want to put one reservation on the record. We hope the government realizes that the needs of the provinces are going to grow and that particularly in the field of education they are going to grow at an alarming rate in the years immediately ahead. I have here an article in the May 21 issue of *Maclean's* magazine. The article is headed as follows:

Our high schools are headed for a crack-up unless we hire another 2,400 teachers right away, build another 2,500 classrooms, raise more than \$100 million to pay for them.

The article is written by Robert Walker, and he points out that we are now arriving at the stage where the post-war babies are entering our high schools. It will only be a limited number of years until those post-war babies are going to be knocking on the doors of our Canadian universities. The problem with which we are now faced of financing the universities is going to be multiplied many times over in the years ahead and our provincial governments will be unable, under the existing arrangements, to provide the degree of university education that they ought for our young Canadians.

We feel, especially in view of the fact our needs are going to grow so rapidly, that this legislation now before us is rather inadequate. It is really a poor substitute for meeting the needs of the provinces in so far as a new deal in the matter of revenues is concerned which would enable the provinces to meet their constitutional responsibilities. We heard a lot during the election campaign concerning a proposed new deal for our provincial governments. We sincerely hope that the acceptance of the bill now before us will not be misinterpreted and that the government will not believe that we are expressing our satisfaction with the fact that the government has met its obligations and is enabling our provincial governments to obtain the revenues that they need and of which they were assured at the time of the election campaign.

We also note with alarm the insertion in the bill of the date March 31, 1962, which would indicate that the government may not be contemplating any upward revision of aid to universities before the end of March, 1962. We hope that our 10 provincial governments, and especially our educational institutions, will not have to wait until that date before a new deal is granted them because they have already waited for some time.

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to ask the hon. member a question before he resumes

[Mr. Regier.]

his seat. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the C.C.F. was now opposing what Mr. St. Laurent did under the university grants, and which was so warmly supported by Mr. Coldwell and his whole party?

Mr. Regier: We have always been happy with any assistance being offered by the federal government in connection with the cost of university education anywhere in Canada. However, we said at that time we did not believe the attitude of Premier Duplessis was acceptable, and at that time the Liberals agreed with us. Now the Liberals seem to say that Mr. Duplessis has been right all along.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

(Translation):

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, before we go into committee on this bill, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming)?

(Text):

Mr. Pickersgill: On a point of order, sir, the hon. gentleman, I believe, has already spoken in this debate.

An hon. Member: No, he spoke at the resolution stage.

(Translation):

Mr. Pigeon: If the hon. member proposes to explain the sections of this bill, could he not also give some explanation with regard to section 9B, paragraph 2, which says this:

As determined by the minister.

I would like to have the minister give some explanation later on.

In closing, I may say, that, in view of the adverse remarks of the opposition members on the bill, if they vote in favour of it, they will cover themselves with ridicule in the eyes of the people of Quebec.

Mr. Loiselle: Who is talking of ridicule?

Mr. M. J. A. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, as a representative of French-speaking people living outside the province of Quebec, I would be remiss if I did not say a few words on this legislation.

It is true that in the province of Alberta we have received grants for our universities; anyhow, there was only one university concerned, the provincial university. But, as you know, Mr. Speaker, we must, as Canadians, concern ourselves more with the higher education of our people, in order to keep our young Canadians in this country.

On several occasions, I pointed out my anxiety at seeing too many of our young people leave Canada for other countries.