

Dominion-Provincial Relations

negotiations with the provincial governments with respect to the representations by the welfare council regarding health and welfare care for refugees sponsored privately during world refugee year and, if so, whether he can give any report to the house?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to make inquiries about that question.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister would permit me to ask a supplementary question. Would the government give consideration to the possibility of having this residual care undertaken by the federal government if it is not possible to reach agreement with the provinces?

Mr. Green: Well, Mr. Speaker, the whole broad question is under consideration.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TAX-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS ACT

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY GRANTS—EXTENSION OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE

The house resumed, from Wednesday, May 11, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-56, to amend the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act—Mr. Fleming (Eglinton)—Mr. Flynn in the chair.

On clause 1—*Amendment of agreements.*

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, at just about the time of adjournment last evening I was prepared to put a question to the minister. I should like to ask the question at this time but before doing so, in order that there might be no misunderstanding, perhaps I could just refer the minister to two lines of his statement which are to be found on page 3802 of *Hansard* of May 11, 1960:

They decided they would proceed with their program of legislation regardless of what might be the outcome of the discussions with the federal government.

I take that to mean that, notwithstanding what was going to be put in the bill now under consideration, the provincial government of Quebec would proceed on their own with their own legislation. A little later in the same paragraph the minister said, referring to the meeting which he had with Mr. Barrette:

It also afforded an opportunity on the part of Premier Barrette to be given full information as to the intention of the government of Canada in relation to the legislative proposals which are now embodied in the bill under debate in this committee.

I wonder whether the minister would give us a little more clarification on that. Did Mr. Barrette tell the Minister of Finance that

he was satisfied with this bill? I take it that the bill now under discussion was shown to him, that he saw it, and I ask the minister what Mr. Barrette's reaction was, whether he declared himself satisfied with its content.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I made a very ample statement on this subject yesterday, going far beyond anything that is required, doing so only under protest because of the fact that so much latitude had been allowed. I considered the entire proceedings were out of order. I think I have made quite an ample report on the discussions to which reference has been made.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, although the minister vigorously criticized the fact that I referred to a portion of two letters, he then proceeded to put on *Hansard*—which was a very extraordinary thing and took over 30 minutes—all the correspondence that took place between the two levels of government. What I am asking him now is a matter which has reference to some of the correspondence which he put on record. The minister has not answered the question. Surely we on this side of the house are entitled to know whether, in his discussions with the premier of Quebec, the premier was shown the contents of this bill, and whether he gave his approval of its contents.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I read the correspondence yesterday and placed the full information on record, whereas the hon. member had jumped around between two or three letters making some selections from the correspondence. I refer him to the letter which I read yesterday, dated December 14, 1959, from the late Premier Sauve, in which he said:

As I mentioned to you last October, the Quebec government has decided to request the provincial parliament, during the present session—

—to do certain things. "Has decided" I draw those words to his attention. There are similar expressions elsewhere. The present bill was not in existence at the time, although we were well aware of what the bill would contain when introduced, and the legislative intentions of the two governments were discussed in a very understanding manner.

Mr. Chevrier: Then do I understand from the minister's last answer that while the bill was not ready and was not shown to the premier of Quebec at the time, he was told of its contents?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): He was told of the legislative intention of the federal government in its approach to this question.

Mr. Bourget: May I pursue that question and ask the Minister of Finance whether Mr. Barrette at any time told the minister that