

Dominion-Provincial Relations

the province of Quebec itself has believed, for nearly a century, and under all its successive governments, Liberal, Conservative, or Union Nationale, if it has considered it a sacred principle to abstain from interfering in the structure of our institutions of higher learning, why advance such an argument, why imagine such a bogey? Why create objections out of thin air which have no weight whatsoever because of the system which is peculiar to the province of Quebec, if it is not an attempt to throw confusion into the minds of the people and to blot out the eminently patriotic character of the legislation we are now about to vote and which, I trust, Mr. Chairman, will be accepted by most of the people in Quebec, except for that small group which tries to make a political football of the issue. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman—

An hon. Member: Talk about the Colombo plan.

Mr. Dorion: That interjection is not worth taking up.

Mr. Chairman, there are some know-alls, people who can speak about anything, on any subject. They have some general knowledge about everything but, when you try to weigh that general knowledge, it is not even worth the breath used for expressing it. It is unfortunate that the minister of finance of the day, in view of the dictatorial powers that had been given him, did not at least define the fundamental qualifications for enabling some people to sit here in this house.

Mr. Chairman, the text affected by the amendment must be judged within the context of the bill itself. To take it out of its context would be, in my humble opinion, an extremely faulty way of considering it and of passing judgment on it.

What is the object of that bill after all? A deduction of the corporation tax of 1 per cent for the provinces which will avail themselves of the alternative arrangement which is now offered them. On that score there is no possible hesitation. The fact that there will be deducted from the equalization payments the overpayment, in relation to what the federal government would have paid, will in no way affect the corporations.

The Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member for Bellechasse, but he is now discussing another aspect of clause 2 which is not the subject of the amendment under consideration at present.

Mr. Dorion: I shall try then, as far as possible, to remain within the limited scope [Mr. Dorion.]

of the amendment. In my opinion, this amendment—not the amendment but its wording rather—does not mention that the provinces will be bound or subordinate to such and such a thing. It merely says: in the appreciation of the facts in order to establish whether a province may take advantage of this alternative policy or not, those are the principles that you, as Minister of Finance must follow—

The Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member once again, but I must tell him that his time is up.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Dorion) for the kind words he said about me a moment ago. I do not think he is in the habit of speaking as he did a moment ago, not so much about me as about other hon. members of this house, because, normally, he talks with great courtesy. But tonight, he slightly departed from his usual way. I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will allow me also to slightly depart from the strict wording of the law, because the hon. member, instead of sticking to the strict wording of the law, wanted to make a political speech—

An hon. Member: That is what you are doing yourself.

Mr. Chevrier: —an essentially political speech, because he had to be called to order more than once.

The hon. member said, Mr. Chairman, that we did not understand the eminently patriotic character of this bill. Well, I should like to tell the hon. member for Bellechasse that we, from the opposition, and myself, a native of another province than the province of Quebec, have no lesson in patriotism to receive from him, because in the province where I come from we have had—

An hon. Member: Where you still live.

Mr. Chevrier: —struggles to fight, and the patriotism of those who come from that province, like the patriotism of those who now surround me, is just as good as that of the hon. member for Bellechasse. The hon. member for Bellechasse is not consistent with himself.

Mr. Dorion: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) is so much in the habit of distorting my words that he ends up by having me say things which are completely opposed to what I think. I have never suggested that patriotism is exclusive to the province of Quebec or to members from the province of Quebec; I have