

Honourable senators will note, as set out on page 3, that paragraph 7 is now being amended. The gist of the amendment is that the provinces shall in the future administer and dispose of the lands and the funds as the province may determine. In other words, the Government of Canada has given over complete control of these natural resources to the respective provinces.

Section 2, on page 3 of the bill, recites the fact that this agreement shall take effect upon being duly approved by the legislatures of the province and the Parliament of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Would the honourable senator tell us whether it has been approved by the legislatures?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I could not say that for sure, but I think it possibly has since the agreement was reached between the Government of Canada and the provincial Governments in July of this year.

Hon. Mr. Hayden: Will the honourable senator permit another question? Do I understand that as and when this bill becomes law the effect then would be that the province would have complete and absolute charge of school lands, and the school lands fund to administer as it saw fit, and could even remove the character of school lands and school funds and use the lands and funds for whatever purpose they may determine.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I doubt that.

Hon. Mr. Hayden: I was just wondering if my friend had seen by page 3, to which he referred, that when this bill becomes law the school lands fund and such of the lands as are specified shall be administered or disposed of in such manner as the provinces may determine.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): No limitation.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: It appears that there is no limitation provided in that clause, but I could not be sure on that point.

As I said before, Schedules B and C are exactly the same as Schedule A and therefore it will not be necessary for me to explain them. There is, however, one slight difference in that Schedules A and B, as provided at the bottom of page 2 and page 4 of the bill, refer to paragraph 24 of the original agreement, whereas Schedule C, at the top of page 7, refers to paragraph 26 of the original agreement.

Honourable senators, if this bill receives second reading I would move that it be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Honourable senators, this is a financial measure and

it occurred to me it might be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: That will be agreeable.

Hon. Mr. Wall: May I ask the honourable senator this question: He referred to the administration of the lands and the administration of the school lands fund dating back to 1879, I believe, and ending in 1930 when the natural resources became the property of the provinces or were handed back to the provinces. Will he tell this honourable house whether during that period the federal Government exercised any kind of jurisdiction over the way in which the moneys were spent within the provinces, the allocation of the funds within the provinces? For example, would there have been some control in that regard, so that the spirit and the provisions of the Manitoba act or the British North America Act of 1871 were in tune with what was happening to this fund?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am unable to answer the question of the honourable senator from Winnipeg. That could be brought up in committee, at which time I am sure the answer could be provided.

(Translation):

Hon. Léon-Mercier Gouin: Honourable senators, I have received a telegram from the following organizations: *Le Conseil de la Vie française en Amérique*, the Canadian Association of the French-speaking Educators, the Association of Trustees of French-speaking Catholic schools in Canada, the Canadian Council of French-speaking Educational Associations, the Catholic Movement of French-speaking Parents and Teachers in Canada, the Canadian Association of School Inspectors and Directors of Education. The telegram reads as follows:

The organizations mentioned below are not opposed to Bill C-129 provided that it guarantees a fair apportionment, between Protestant and Catholic schools in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, of the revenues and funds which will accrue from the sale of school lands by the Federal government to the advantage of the three Western provinces (Stop) We request your support in order to preserve the rights of the minorities.

If I understand the situation clearly, under the measure which is now before us, the provinces would have absolute control over tremendous sums of money which are at present in the hands of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

(Text):

The honourable senator who introduced this measure has explained that in future it