

Dominion-Provincial Relations

which are in this amending bill. It cannot be a repetition of the general discussion which took place on the principle of the bill on second reading.

As I said, if we were to apply the rule strictly, there would be no general debate on clause 1. It is only possible by practice and, I would say by some tolerance which the Chair has shown up to now. I would ask hon. members to realize that if the procedure allowed repetition of the debate on second reading, the committee stage would have no meaning at all and I do not see why the rule would provide for study in committee.

Mr. Cardin: When I rose I had something very definite and very concise to say and something which I think is completely related to the discussion we are having and something which I think is important. However, Mr. Chairman, if your ruling is that I cannot speak about it, the only thing I can do is to resume my seat. I have no intention of speaking about a provincial election.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member for Laurier, in the documents he has brought before the committee today, has indicated clearly something which it seems to me must be cleared up before the committee can in any decency be asked to continue with the consideration of this bill. Everybody knows that the purpose of clause 1 and clause 2 of this bill is to introduce into the legislation of this country a new scheme or an alternative scheme for paying to or for making available certain money for universities. Everybody knows that. It was stated by the Minister of Finance as one of the two purposes of the bill. Everybody also knows as a matter of practical effect that this second scheme, this alternative, is of no interest to any province or the government of any province except one.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): How do you know?

Mr. Pickersgill: Everybody knows that; it is a matter of common knowledge. If the minister has some secret information he has not disclosed to the house, he ought to disclose it.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): In the meantime you are making a statement out of your imagination and not based on fact.

Mr. Pickersgill: In the meantime I have the floor, Mr. Chairman, and I am speaking on the bill. As I said, everybody knows, so far as there is any public knowledge, that there is no interest in the alternative scheme in any province except one and that province is, of course, the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speakman: The provincial election.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is not our fault that that there is a provincial election, although it may be that the government introduced this bill because there was a provincial election.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a point of order—

Mr. Pickersgill: More closure.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a point of order—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This is not a point of order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Will you permit the chairman to make the ruling?

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has just now taken upon himself to make an assertion and to attribute motives. That is something that is forbidden in the plainest terms by the rules of the house. It is time that the hon. member learned something of the rules of the house and learned to obey them.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I say this? Last night I was taken to task rather severely by the Minister of Finance. What for? I was taken to task because when I made a particular statement here in this chamber, another hon. gentleman made a statement in the province of Quebec concerning elections and from that he concluded that there was an understanding between the two of us. What could be more political than that charge? It was a clear insinuation of something which is not true and an insinuation which I throw back at him at this moment. He now rises on a point of order which is not a point of order at all in order to say that my hon. friend is guilty of the same thing. Does the minister want me to read out to him what he said to me on the occasion to which I have referred?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I want the hon. member to obey the rules of the house for one thing.

Mr. Chevrier: If you want me to obey the rules of the house, you must obey them yourself.

An hon. Member: Address the chairman.

The Chairman: Order. I would ask hon. members to restrain themselves a little bit so that we may have an orderly debate. The point of order raised by the minister had reference to an imputation of motive by the the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate but I think it was a reference to the government generally and I do not think it had reference to any hon. member but—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It was attributing motives.