

Private Bills

of universities and colleges of Canada, because the matter is obscure and we would like to know what to think.

I think that as long as this matter is not clarified, it will be difficult for us to take a stand.

In view of the fact that we know very little about it at the present time and in view of the statement made by my colleague from Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière (Mr. Paul), we are justified to wonder where that association is going, what is its role? If it is simply an intermediary that will be set up to distribute federal grants to colleges and universities, then, we will have to stand against it.

I think that a statement by the hon. member for Northumberland would be in order at this time.

[Text]

Miss Jewett: I may say once again, to correct an earlier remark, that I did not say this was its first purpose or its main purpose. This is one of its many purposes. I am sorry, since this seems to have become such an enormous issue. For many years now, without any objection from that corner, the Canadian universities foundation has been performing this task. I would think the hon. member for Lapointe would know this very well. I am really shocked to discover he apparently does not realize that the new association, which is simply replacing two existing bodies, is carrying on the functions these two bodies carried on separately.

Mr. Grégoire: I know what the Canadian universities foundation was doing, but it was not with the consent of the provinces involved. The province of Quebec did not give its consent but received, quite rightly, part of the federal personal income tax. The hon. member for Northumberland said that the federal government had the authority to change that. This is the point I should like to have explained. I know these per capita grants have been given in many areas and in other provinces, and I know they were given with the consent of those provinces. However, the province of Quebec remained out of that plan.

Miss Jewett: I am sorry if I gave the wrong impression. This does not affect the constitutional position in any way whatever. Things will continue exactly as they always have.

Mr. Peters: I should like to ask a few questions right now. I do not know as much about this measure as the hon. member for

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Lapointe does because I have not had much to do with the universities foundation. However I am always interested in an agency that appears to be operating in the public domain but remains a private agency. The hon. member has referred to the \$2 per capita which is distributed, and that is a large sum of money. It amounts to something like \$14 million in Ontario and \$10 million in Quebec. Why should this amount be distributed by this agency? Why has the government not introduced this bill rather than leaving it to a private member? It seems to me the work of the organization falls within the public domain, especially if it is a distributing agency for the federal government. If this is the case, then the organization should get its jurisdiction from a public act.

I noticed there was a schedule attached to the bill, and I have looked at it quickly. I find none of the new universities or colleges in the list. This raises the problem, how do these new universities obtain a listing? I am interested particularly in Laurentian University and I notice it is not listed. Second, and this may be a hypothetical question, there is in Ontario a new class of college growing up. These colleges have not asked for that status as yet, nor have they been particularly concerned about it. I am referring to such schools as NOIT, the technical institute of northern Ontario, and EOIT, the eastern technical institute in Ottawa. I believe there are others, and they are somewhat on a par with Ryerson, which has gone much beyond the normal technical school type of training. It seems to me that one of these days there is going to be a desire on the part of students, instructors and these institutions to establish them as colleges and start giving degree courses in highly technical fields. This has been done in many states in the United States. All sorts of queer sounding degrees are given by these colleges in highly technical fields.

There has been a reluctance on the part of the universities to recognize new colleges. If this is true, and it has been the case until recently, then it is going to be very difficult for any of these new technical colleges to obtain a status that would allow them to be listed in this schedule. It seems to me, from a reading of it, that we are establishing a schedule now that can be added to only by agreement of the board of directors of the conference, the persons named in the schedule. If this is so, it seems to me we are again involved in this problem of whether or not this should be a public agency or a private agency, and whether or not such a