

Education

that reason that our compatriots from Lower Canada, namely the province of Quebec, agreed to join confederation; it was precisely because section 93 of the constitution provided that education would come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to those exceptions pointed out previously, and to the interpretation which has been widened in all directions since, I would refer the house to a ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada, which I have already quoted here on June 22, 1961. It is a 1938 ruling, stating that the word "education", in section 93, must be interpreted in its wider sense.

The confusion which prevails at the moment has been brought about by the Ottawa Liberal government, which has governed the affairs of this country for 22 years and which, particularly after world war II, when it had to hand back to the provinces their taxation fields and powers, wanted to keep the upper hand on those powers, like some dictatorial paterfamilias in order to be able to distribute them wisely, it claimed, according to its own views.

Furthermore, having too much money at its disposal, it had to intervene in fields coming exclusively within provincial jurisdiction.

In my humble opinion, the problem is not hard to solve. The federal government should hand back to the provinces their taxation powers, so that they may be able to deal with those matters coming exclusively under their jurisdiction.

We have enough problems here in Ottawa both in the national and international field to keep our minds busy. Therefore, we should leave to the provinces the fields that belong to their exclusive jurisdiction.

That is the spirit in which this government has introduced a part of its legislation. In fact, it has amended a regulation concerning grants to universities in accordance with the intent of section 93 and more particularly as far as the province of Quebec is concerned—a province not like the others. Quebec has different culture and traditions of its own and wishes to join with the rest of the country while preserving its real and very distinct entity.

This is a very important problem for the citizens of the province of Quebec and whatever the government in power, whether it be the Union Nationale or the Liberal party, it must be settled to the satisfaction of all.

The present Quebec premier, who, while he was a federal cabinet member, managed to intervene in a field of provincial jurisdiction. Fallen now from the position he enjoyed at the federal level to settle down at the provincial level, as premier of my province,

he has become the champion of the exclusive rights of the provinces, and would now like to destroy the idols which he himself contributed to erect.

We have a new fiscal formula. The Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) and the present government are preaching in favour of a decentralization effort, not a huge one, since, five years hence, the provinces will be handed back only 20 per cent of the taxes levied by the federal government. But just the same, it is a step in the right direction and that is why an editorialist of *Le Devoir* wrote that those provinces which really wish to recover their fiscal liberty should be glad of that formula, because they will find in it the spirit of the confederative pact.

I read recently in the newspapers that the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier)—who, of course, belonged to the Liberal government, in power during 22 years—still advocates a formula which would allow more intrusion into an exclusively provincial field. This is what he said:

If we are brought back into power, the Liberal party in Ottawa will grant 10,000 scholarships of \$1,000 each to students across the country.

He explains that these scholarships would not be given directly by the federal government to the students, but through the Canadian universities foundation. That is a condemnable intrusion which surely goes against the spirit of the confederative pact, and especially against clause 93 of the constitution.

Instead of going back, instead of accepting a readjustment or of recognizing that the federal government has interfered where it had no business, the hon. member for Laurier continues to advocate an unconstitutional policy.

He may be surprised to note that this attitude is condemned by different newspapers admittedly sympathetic to the Liberals, in the province of Quebec. May I quote briefly in this regard the conclusions drawn in an article by Mr. Pierre-Paul Blais, editor of the newspaper *La Tribune* of Sherbrooke, on March 13, 1962:

What cannot be accepted in the field of grants to universities is no more acceptable in the field of scholarships to students. This new plank in the Liberal party platform is a threat of federal intrusion in the field of education and a new encroachment upon the autonomy of the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I think the principle of this resolution is excellent. At last, it tends to allow discussion in the field of education and federal jurisdiction, that is, the spirit of section 93, which will involve final adjustments that will allow our young Canadians to get a start in life with the best possible education.