

Private Bills

I agree with the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Fairweather) that those of us who are members of this house should perhaps, in approving the passage of the bill, indicate that we feel this house has a responsibility to take steps to foster and promote the interests of higher education in Canada to a greater extent than we have in the past; and I hope there will be an early opportunity for us to discuss all aspects of our responsibilities in more detail than I feel it would be in order to do under the bill which is now before us.

I am sure my colleagues will join with me in doing what we can to support them in the passage of this bill through the house.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we heard, a while ago, the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett) advising us of the intentions expressed by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), today or yesterday—I do not quite know—in connection with Bill No. S-36; the hon. member for Lapointe and our party must be given their due.

We feel that Bill No. S-36 is logical and we see no objection to Canadian universities and colleges grouping together in an effort to achieve definite goals and specific aims in their field of endeavour. I was pleased to note that, in clause 10 of the bill, it is specified that the official languages of the association will be French and English and that, in clause 11, the head office of the association will be established in Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the preamble to the bill reads as follows:

Whereas the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges, an unincorporated body, hereinafter called "The Conference", and the Canadian Universities Foundation, a company incorporated pursuant to the Companies Act by letters patent dated February 4, 1959, hereinafter called "the Foundation", have by their petition prayed that it be enacted as hereinafter set forth, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the petition.

There are at least 15 clauses in the bill as well as a schedule listing the colleges and universities which will be members of this new association.

The hon. member for Northumberland said earlier that we would not allow the bill to be passed. It is not because we have anything against the universities and colleges, but because we have a slight grudge against the other place. A bill was introduced a

[Mr. Barnett.]

long time ago—my remarks are perhaps out of order, but it is precisely because there is some discrimination against a province which requested the passage of a bill that we object to the passage of other bills. There is a limit to everything. I feel that the patience of the people's representatives, of the members of the house has been overtaxed. We have responsibilities, and I think that any bill likely to promote the development of our country should be considered on its merits, irrespective of political partisanship. We believe that there is in this house some partisanship which should not prevail here. We are ready to pass bills in the best interests of the population or a certain segment of the population needing or asking for more freedom and justice to which they are entitled in every field of our national administration.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, we are in favour of this Bill No. S-36, and as soon as the other place acts fairly towards a certain province, namely British Columbia, we will be ready to pass this bill and we will not raise any objection to it or to the other bills now under consideration for one, two or three months and which have been discussed every Thursday or every second Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. S-36 will enable colleges and universities, as I said earlier, to look after their own business, to help as much as possible students now attending those colleges and universities or those who will do so in the future. We see that this bill aims at furthering higher education in Canada. I think that students are in a position to help in that respect because they are so directly concerned and because it will be their problems that the association of universities and colleges of Canada will be studying.

Section 3 reads as follows:

Subject to the by-laws which may be enacted from time to time pursuant to section 7, the membership of the association shall be composed of the universities and colleges named in the schedule to this act, and such other corporations, organizations or bodies as are from time to time admitted to membership pursuant to this act.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that colleges and universities in all parts of Canada will be members of that association. In fact, there are members in Nova Scotia, Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario. It seems that all the provinces will be represented, or that colleges and universities in every part of the country will join the association.

In my opinion, colleges and universities show that they have a sense of unity, which