

Dominion-Provincial Relations

Mr. Chairman, I call the attention of the Solicitor General to the fact that under clause 2, Quebec is in fact bound by the agreement reached between the Minister of Finance and the Canadian universities foundation. In fact, under the very provisions of the bill, the agreement is incorporated in the bill. Moreover, the definitions of the expressions "university level", "university", etc., about which there have been so many complaints from hon. members—

The Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member for Laurier once again, but if my memory serves me right, he dealt with this matter yesterday. Furthermore, it seems that it had been agreed that we would not resume this discussion before we came to clause 2. Consequently, in order to allow for an ordered discussion of the bill, I must unfortunately call him to order.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, if I was out of order, it is because I wanted to reply to the Solicitor General who said that the province of Quebec does not have to accept this bill, whereas I claim that it is bound by this agreement. However, if you do not want me to deal with this matter, I shall not insist, because I shall be able to talk about it when we come to clause 2.

Mr. Balcer: And I shall be able to reply.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, since the Solicitor General says he will be able to answer me, why does he not reply now to the arguments I raised on three different occasions, that is, on the resolution—

Mr. Johnson: Because he is asking you a question, and you do not want to reply. When you are in a spot, you say all kinds of nonsense.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, the Solicitor General has replied to none of the arguments which I raised on behalf of the opposition.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Charlevoix, like several others from the province of Quebec, has bitterly complained of the fact that I had not dared open my mouth when I was a member of the cabinet.

Mr. Tremblay: That is true.

Mr. Chevrier:—and that I had never said anything—

An hon. Member: What a confession.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Mr. Chevrier:—but I was not even in the province of Quebec at the time. However, there are in the present cabinet, four ministers from the province of Quebec, and three of them have not yet taken part in this debate. If the argument of the hon. member for Charlevoix applies to me, who was not in the province of Quebec at the time, it must apply even more to those who have not yet taken the floor during this debate.

Mr. Asselin: I must say that the hon. member for Laurier is making up for it now, but that the population does not believe him because he is late.

The Chairman: Order. I think we are again straying from the question. I therefore ask the hon. members to give us a little more co-operation, so we can achieve a little more progress.

Mr. Chevrier: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the member for Laurier rises in this house to speak on behalf of fellow citizens of the province of Quebec, of whom he is a representative, there are shouts from all around, he is interrupted, he is said to be a liar and told that he has no right to meddle with the business of the province of Quebec, even if he represents a Montreal constituency. Is Montreal not in the province of Quebec? And, when he dares rise against those who do not see the danger there is in this bill, to point out the danger to which they themselves referred to on two occasions during this debate, while one of them even found fault with the wording of a certain clause, they complain of his behaviour.

So, Mr. Chairman, if I do one thing, I am wrong; if I do another, I am still wrong. Therefore, when is a member entitled to rise and speak for his colleagues of the province of Quebec, as the hon. member for Laurier has done?

In conclusion, I ask the Solicitor General once again where he got his information. I asked him if the Prime Minister had accepted the bill, and he answered that he had not. I shall go further and ask him, on the basis of what information did he make that statement earlier?

(Text):

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, had hon. members opposite indicated a desire for a more detailed review of the discussions and correspondence between the government of Quebec and the federal government which preceded the introduction of the resolution antecedent to the present bill, the proper place of course to have made that