

*Dominion-Provincial Relations*

—something which I pointed out too, because I want to be fair to everyone—the minister had himself defined “university,” a “university level,” “student,” and “university degree”.

So, dexterous as he is, he chose and sought to show I was in contradiction with a text to which he referred in any case, saying: those definitions are to be found, word for word, in the agreement signed by the present Minister of Finance with the Canadian universities foundations.

Now, Mr. Chairman, just what is the situation? According to this text, it is required that everything be done in accordance with and subject to terms and conditions not inconsistent with the agreement referred to in paragraph (2). Now what does that mean?

I have that agreement here. It is true that the terms and definitions of those four expressions I mentioned a moment ago are practically the same. Yet there is one important difference, as I will show.

The first distinction to be made—and this was recognized by the hon. member for Laurier in his first speech on this point—is that the definition appearing in the 1952 order in council was the very definition imposed upon the universities by the Minister of Finance, while in the present case we have a contract or at least an agreement involving two organized bodies: first, the Canadian universities foundation, which as I understand was established precisely to provide for the redistribution of the money voted to it by the federal government for university purposes, and second, the national conference of Canadian universities.

It is therefore signed by those two bodies in addition to the Minister of Finance.

In other words—and let me mention here a fact on which I directed a question to my good friend the hon. member for Laurier, and failed to get a reply; I asked him whether the five Quebec universities were members of the national conference of Canadian universities, and he failed to reply.

Therefore, I will give him that answer, if I may. The answer is that Bishop, McGill, Laval, Sherbrooke and Montreal universities are members of that organization and that, consequently, in agreement with the Minister of Finance and with the Canadian universities foundation, they have accepted the definitions included in the new arrangement.

Are those definitions different from those given in 1952 by an order in council, by order of the cabinet, and in accordance with the suggestions of the Minister of Finance and

[Mr. Dorion.]

without the approval not only of the provinces about whom quite a fight is being staged now whereas at that time, far from there being any fighting on their behalf they were being by-passed without the approval of the provinces, without the assent of the universities, or even without any kind of arrangement.

What has happened in 1960? Thanks to the Minister of Finance who gave consideration to the particular situation in the province of Quebec, and for which, I repeat, we are happy to thank him, the methods have changed.

He left it to the Canadian universities foundation to define, or rather determine, whether the conditions required by the definition are met for such or such university. For instance, I read, under the word “student”—

(Text):

“student” means a full-time intramural student in personal attendance at a university who is registered in a course of university level leading to and counting year for year towards a university degree, as determined by the foundation;

(Translation):

This is not the Minister of Finance’s definition, it is that of the university itself. Is this not, Mr. Chairman, an essential distinction? In other words—and that is what is to be understood from the text—this dictatorial power which could be exercised and which, in fact, has been exercised, is being taken away from the Minister of Finance and handed back to the institutions concerned. Those institutions are being freed in being given the power to define of themselves what they mean by those words and the power to determine of themselves the institutions that may benefit from federal grants to universities.

(Text):

“university” means—

(Translation):

And again I am quoting the agreement:

(Text):

—an institution of higher learning in a province of Canada as determined by the foundation;

Not as determined by the minister.

(Translation):

As was the case under the Liberal administration, but—

(Text):

as determined by the foundation—

(Translation):

As is the case with the present Minister of Finance.

So, it is simple, this rule being established—