

Private Bills

we should give it even more support than we would ordinarily.

I make a plea, therefore, that there not be any attempt made to talk out this bill on grounds which relate to another matter entirely. It is in a sense pure accident that it went through the other place first; it could have gone through this house first, and if we had agreed to the principle of the bill it would have passed this chamber and then gone to the other place and, I assume, would have passed there as it has already. Indeed, should there be any filibuster on this bill, any extended discussion simply to talk it out, I would point out the following.

[Translation]

May I quote the words of the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) himself, as recorded on page 10927:

—that is not freedom, but abuse, a tremendous abuse of the freedom of speech.

[Text]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I am interested in the concept, and I think this house should support the concept, that universities and colleges are not provincial things in the area of their concern. Universities are, by the very nature of their establishment, things of the world, and I believe that any attempt to promote that aspect of their concern should have the wholehearted endorsement of this house. I was very interested in the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett), who is sponsoring the bill, saying that we in this house are anxious to help the universities. I would think that as well as speaking in this house she would be taking some steps to see that the treasury benches have paid some heed to her plea, because the Canadian universities foundation has had a long-standing appeal to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) for increased grants both capital and operating. That is an aside, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure it will be dealt with in a budget that will come before us very soon.

I have listened for an anticipated objection, of which the hon. member for Northumberland has given the house notice, from the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire). I cannot imagine a more cynical way to attack another place or another part of parliament than to hold up this type of bill, if this is to be the case. I hear no denial so I am going to go on with this aspect of my remarks. If the hon. member for Lapointe finds objection in the other place or to the

other place, he has the avenues available to him that the promoters of this bill have had. Private—

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I see that the debate concerning Bill No. S-36 is centred around my supposed intentions as stated by the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett). I did not object to her statement because I thought that it was insignificant.

However, I would point out to the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Fairweather) that he should inquire about what we are doing and listen to our statements before he makes any comments in this respect, and then he may talk about our intentions.

I disregarded what the hon. member for Northumberland said. She came to my office and, suddenly, she mentioned what I am supposed to have told her, but distorting my thought. I did not say anything.

Under the circumstances, I say to the hon. member for Royal that I never made any statement in this respect, and I would ask him to talk about Bill No. S-36 without referring to our intentions.

[Text]

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted with this reassuring news that the house has nothing to worry about, and I will certainly not take another minute. All I have to say is that we on this side support the objectives in what is a straightforward piece of legislation which is entitled to the enthusiastic support of all hon. members.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I for one will not attempt to anticipate any remarks that may be made by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) or indeed any other member of the house. I rise simply to say that I listened with interest to the introduction of the bill into our house. I notice that its objects are to foster and promote the interests of higher education in Canada. I also notice from a brief examination of the schedule that it appears to be a very representative organization, as proposed in the bill, of the institutions of higher learning in Canada. Therefore I am pleased to join with the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett) and the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Fairweather) in indicating my wholehearted support of the bill and of the purposes which those who are seeking to develop this organization have in mind.