

Dominion-Provincial Relations

According to page 3549 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) suggested that the minister amend section 2, and then went on to say:

Nevertheless it is distasteful that the federal minister should act as arbitrator and be the only one to have a say on the value of the said agreements. (Text):

Therefore it appears crystal clear, Mr. Chairman, that in leaving these words in clause 2 the minister will be the only judge in determining whether or not the arrangements made by the provincial government with the universities within the province are satisfactory, and it is also clear that clause 2 contradicts the statements made by the Minister of Finance referred to by me at the beginning of my remarks. In other words, according to these terms in clause 2 this whole scheme cannot operate unless the minister is of the opinion that the arrangements between the province and the universities in this province are satisfactory, and if the Minister of Finance finds in his opinion that these arrangements are not satisfactory then as a consequence the deduction for the equalization payments cannot take place. Therefore the operation of this scheme is centralized on the will and discretion of one person, the Minister of Finance. I feel that this is not only most extraordinary but also contrary to the autonomy of the provinces and one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation ever brought before this house.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move:

That clause 2 be amended as follows:

That the word "satisfactory" in line 16, page 2, and the words "in the opinion of the minister" in line 17 of page 2 be struck out.

The Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. member has supported a quite unacceptable amendment with some very strange and far fetched arguments. One would think to listen to him that he had been violently opposed to the essence of this bill. The remarks that have just now been made in this committee were made by an hon. member who did support this bill on second reading; yet he is now mouthing the same kind of contradictory statements as were made by the hon. member for Laurier when he opened the debate on this matter.

Mr. Chevrier: Do not be so rambunctious.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I will speak my mind on this matter and I will not be asking the permission of the hon. member for Laurier to do so.

Mr. Chevrier: You are going out of your mind.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): We have heard from him the same kind of contradictory

[Mr. Deschatelets.]

remarks in this debate. I do not wonder he is feeling most uncomfortable this afternoon; he certainly looks it.

Mr. Chevrier: You have been raising points of order all the time.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): You see, Mr. Chairman, he is feeling very aggrieved, apparently, that he introduced an amendment this afternoon which was ruled out of order.

Mr. Pickersgill: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): He says that I have been raising points of order all the time. I am glad I raised one successfully on that occasion.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am rising on a point of order. A vote was taken in committee and the matter was disposed of, so it should not be raised again.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Therefore, the hon. member for Laurier has no business saying that I do raise points of order. I certainly did raise a point of order.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order; I do want to tell the Minister of Finance that he has been very objectionable during the course of this whole debate, not only by his interruptions in debate but also by the points he has raised and his attempts to prohibit us from putting on *Hansard* our views in connection with this piece of legislation.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No member of this house who has any claim to knowing anything about the rules of the house or to follow those rules faithfully could make the statement that has just now been made by the hon. member for Laurier. I have no apology to make to him for raising the point of order that has had the effect of this last point of order.

Mr. Chevrier: You should apologize for your language, though.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I see the hon. member for Laurier is losing his temper again and setting himself up as the censor of the proceedings of this house. I do not intend to submit to censorship on his part. I realize it is very difficult for him at the same time, feeling aggrieved as he does at the moment over what has just happened, to sit still and keep quiet. I do not propose to be turned aside from what I intend to say.

Mr. Chevrier: Why don't you deal with the subject?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): You see, he cannot keep quiet.

Mr. Chevrier: Why don't you deal with the subject?