

Dominion-Provincial Relations

As for the other place where the Solicitor General—

Mr. Tremblay: Was there any agreement?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. members want me to answer the Solicitor General's question, I should be given an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Tremblay: You started on the wrong foot.

Mr. Chevrier: I am not in a predicament, you are.

An hon. Member: They are the ones who are in a predicament.

Mr. Chevrier: The other place where the Solicitor General stated what I asserted earlier is a little further, on the same page, that is page 3286 of *Hansard* of April 26, 1960. I quote:

We have kept our word admirably, because Premier Barrette himself believes that this bill is consistent with the terms of Mr. Duplessis' proposal, which was submitted again by Mr. Sauvé, and later by Mr. Barrette himself.

What can those statements indicate if not that there was an agreement, an arrangement between the two government leaders?

And now, Mr. Chairman, since the Solicitor General asked me a question, I would like to ask one to him in turn.

If the Solicitor General still claims, against all comers, despite his statements I just quoted and that he had put on *Hansard*, to the effect that he did not make that assertion, I will ask him this: Did the premier of Quebec accept the bill that we are now discussing? If he did, on the basis of what information did he do so?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Chairman, as I said a few moments ago, and this is the advantage of our legislation, we are not forcing the province of Quebec to sign any agreement whatsoever, we are leaving her entirely free and we are not at all encroaching upon her autonomy.

The legislation proposed by the Quebec government has been unanimously adopted in the Quebec legislature, which indicates that it has been approved by all the Liberal members of the province of Quebec. As far as we are concerned, we have submitted our bill to this house; it has been unanimously approved by all the hon. members.

Those two pieces of legislation have solved the problem of the universities in the province of Quebec. It is the adoption of those two measures that will enable young univer-

sity students in the province of Quebec to share in benefits that were unavailable to them under the legislation of the previous government.

Mr. Deschatelets: Could you answer the question now?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, could I pursue my remarks a bit further—

Mr. Tremblay: Answer the question.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, could I go on with my remarks regarding the matter that was being discussed a moment ago—

Mr. Johnson: Before doing so, would the hon. member allow me a question?

Mr. Chevrier: No, because I do not think that the hon. member is in earnest.

Mr. Johnson: Considering the source of this remark, it is not so important.

Mr. Chevrier: The hon. member is a joker in this house. That is why I cannot take him seriously.

An hon. Member: You have been making jokes for 20 years.

The Chairman: I shall ask the hon. member for Laurier to withdraw the expression he just used and which, to my mind, certainly goes beyond the limits set by standing orders.

Mr. Chevrier: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the expression I used in any way annoyed the hon. member to whom it was attributed, I withdraw it, and just repeat what I said earlier, that is, that I cannot take his interruptions seriously.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Chairman, I forgive the hon. member for Laurier for having projected himself.

Mr. Chevrier: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go on with the discussion which took place a few moments ago between the Solicitor General and hon. members from the opposition.

Mr. Chairman, the Solicitor General has stated that the province of Quebec did not have to accept this bill.

Therefore, if my understanding of his reply to my question is correct, the premier of Quebec has not accepted the bill. And the Solicitor General even went further when he said: "We are not forcing anything on the province of Quebec".