

*Dominion-Provincial Relations*

try to reach an agreement on the basis of justice and according to the constitution.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to those \$57 million paid to its universities, the Quebec government will now be in a position to offer them an additional amount of \$25 million, recovered as a result of its steadfastness. Yet the Liberals call that bad business for the province of Quebec!

**Mr. Parizeau:** The Liberals are just talking through their hats.

**An hon. Member:** How logical.

**An hon. Member:** They are talking through Mr. Lesage.

**Mr. Pigeon:** The hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier does not know that because he has not been living in Quebec very long.

**Mr. Boulanger:** Why don't you season that with natural gas?

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, there has just been a reference to provincial matters. Someone has mentioned natural gas, but I rather feel it is the smell of ink from the printing bureau.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, my friends from the Liberal party feel themselves drawn into the provincial field in spite of themselves. They often refer, without actually mentioning him, to their man, Mr. Lesage who, in 1954, talking with his customary seriousness about provincial autonomy, referred to a cat which was being pulled by the tail. In fact, that reference may be found in the speech made by the Hon. Jean Lesage, on April 14, 1959, as it appears on page 4319 of *Hansard*. The one who said those words at the time has just brought forth a huge mouse. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the absent leader of the Liberal party, the Liberal hero of the great electoral battles of Matane, Roberval, Labelle and Lac St-Jean, the great parliamentarian who has shown his great knowledge of parliamentary procedure at the Reform Club of Quebec City, well ensconced in his plush red seat, paid for out of the liberation fund, had an inspiration on reading Bill C-56. He suddenly discovered, as in some Jacob's dream, that Quebecers believe in the autonomy of their province. This led him to the conclusion that perhaps the citizens of the province of Quebec believe in their cultural value, and believe, in overwhelming majority, that the federal government, under the constitution of our country, has no jurisdiction in the field of teaching and education, that the universities

of the province of Quebec must remain entirely under the control of their provincial government.

Suddenly, he saw the light. And that new Saul in scout pants felt animated by autonomist faith. I understand he has even decided to convert the citizens of the whole country to the constitutional doctrine of the Quebec government.

Perhaps in justification of the views expressed by the Moses from Port Arthur, he has acquired, in addition to so many others, a new complex of superiority, that of wishing to impose Quebec views on the rest of Canada.

But, Mr. Speaker, when he was a member of parliament in Ottawa, when he was a federal minister in the St. Laurent cabinet, why did the Hon. Jean Lesage—what a pretentious name given to such a mountebank—why did the Hon. Jean Lesage not show as much enthusiasm in defending the position of the province of Quebec? If he is prepared to state today that Messrs. Duplessis and Sauve would not have accepted such a compromise—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Johnson:**—why, when he was sitting in this house—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. May I ask the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville not to stray too much from the principle of the bill now before us? I appreciate that we may discuss opinions of someone who is not here, in relation to this bill, but I do not believe that we can stray from the subject matter to the extent he has done for the last few minutes.

**An hon. Member:** Let him go on, he is doing well.

**Mr. Pigeon:** He is sinking Mr. Lesage, he is finishing him.

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, I hear the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon) say that I am sinking Mr. Lesage. I think that remark was unnecessary, because I feel that Mr. Lesage is already sunk.

Mr. Speaker, you say, in your great fairness to the Liberal opposition, that I am getting away from the bill, so may I ask whether it is out of order to refer to the opinion of the Hon. Mr. Lesage, and whether it means I am getting away from the subject under discussion? I do not think this is getting away from the subject of federal aid to universities, because we are now on second reading and considering the principle of the bill.