

Private Bills

Canada. The parliament of Canada also decides how this money is to be distributed.

Mr. Grégoire: Oh, no.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman—

[Text]

The Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Lapointe kindly resume his seat. Only one person can be standing at any one time. Perhaps that suggestion might come from the hon. member for Lapointe at this stage, but it is obvious now that we are getting involved in a discussion which to my mind, and I have to rule accordingly, is not within the confines of Bill No. S-36. Hon. members are quite familiar with the provisions of standing order 59 (2) which says that in committee, discussion must be strictly relevant to the clause being studied and considered.

Clause 1 deals with the incorporation of the association of universities and colleges of Canada, and nowhere in the bill, not even in clause 8, is there any reference to the distribution of the per capita grants and the amounts of grants given by the federal government for education purposes. I would suggest to the hon. member for Skeena that, having mentioned the question by way of introduction, he should revert to the substance of the bill which, I say again, has nothing to do with the grants.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, I will not argue the point with you at this stage but it is my submission that when we get to clause 2, which is more pertinent, we will have a valid argument because clause 2 states that the objects of the association shall be to foster and promote the interests of higher education in Canada. I submit that those objects cannot be met if there are restrictions upon the manner in which the association will operate, albeit those restrictions are made by some other statute.

The Chairman: This might be a very good argument on clause 2 but we are on clause 1 at this stage and the Chair should not be asked to rule in anticipation.

Mr. Howard: I am just giving notice.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: I wish to speak on clause 1, Mr. Chairman.

If, as the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett) has just claimed, the federal government has the required authority to

[Miss Jewett.]

decide which contributions or subscriptions to universities will be made through the association of universities and colleges of Canada, then the corporation which is being set up becomes in fact an organization which will have the necessary powers to evade the provisions of the British North America Act.

As the hon. member for Northumberland has just mentioned, the federal government will be able to use this organization after incorporating it, in order to decide which subsidies it will grant, in which amounts and to whom and how they will be distributed. If those are the purposes of this bill, it cannot be accepted, because we claim that it is not a responsibility of the federal government to determine—

The Chairman: Order. Is the hon. member commenting on the point of order which has been raised?

Mr. Grégoire: No, Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on clause 1.

The Chairman: Well, in that case, the statement of the hon. member is out of order because it is related to a point which does not come in the ambit of clause 1. It may be that the argument of the hon. member could be set forth on another clause, later, but as far as the discussion on this clause is concerned, I consider, as I have already suggested to the hon. members, that we should adhere strictly to its content.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, could the hon. member for Northumberland tell me why the federal government should grant a corporate charter to the association of universities and colleges of Canada when those universities and colleges come under education, a field which is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces according to the British North America Act.

I have nothing against the granting of a federal charter to Canadian universities and colleges but, on the other hand, I would not want this charter granted to Canadian universities and colleges to be used in order to bypass the purposes of section 92 of the British North America Act.

Following the answer just given by the hon. member for Northumberland, to the effect that the federal government is authorized to do this, I wonder if the granting of such a federal charter is not precisely for the purpose of evading the provisions of section 93 of the British North America Act.

When she says that the federal government is authorized to make such grants, I would