

Dominion-Provincial Relations

recall that, under the former Liberal government, some years ago, Mr. Cardin, who was then minister of public works, and Mr. Powers who was minister of national defence (air), seeing that they could not agree with the opinion of the majority of the cabinet members, were logical and resigned.

Mr. Balcer: I approve the present legislation.

Mr. Deschatelets: When we read the speech made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) on May 4, 1960—but I must say, first of all, that on constitutional matters the hon. member for Sherbrooke is the leader of the Conservatives of the province of Quebec—we easily see how he feels about section 9A, because, according to page 3549 of *Hansard*, he said:

Could the minister consider right now the possibility of amending section 9A (b) (ii) by replacing the following expression:

—satisfactory arrangements exist in the opinion of the minister.

By the following expression

—satisfactory arrangement exist in the opinion of the minister.

And the hon. member for Sherbrooke goes much further when he states:

It is true that the act on which this bill is based already gives the Minister of Finance exorbitant powers. Nevertheless it is distasteful—

You will note, Mr. Speaker, that he uses the strong word “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.

There we have the proof that our Conservative friends from Quebec are utterly confused, as a result of the constitutional myth which they themselves created with their provincial leaders in 1952, regarding the formula of the federal government, after they had accepted it in 1951.

Now that there is the Barrette-Diefenbaker axis, we realize the embarrassment of our Conservative friends from Quebec because already in their own speeches, we find confirmation of the fact that the attitude taken by the Liberal government of Mr. St. Laurent, not only did not encroach upon provincial autonomy, but was an indication of a courageous, farsighted and wise government.

(Text):

Mr. J. C. Van Horne (Restigouche-Madawaska): Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say a few words by way of congratulation to the federal government and the government of the province of Quebec for having resolved this problem which has held up the progress of the universities of the province of Quebec for many years. What is happening in this

debate? It is evident that the Liberal party is trying to take this matter and make it into a campaign issue in the forthcoming provincial election in Quebec.

Mr. Brassard (Lapointe): You are a Social Crediter.

Mr. Van Horne: Never. Mr. Lesage, the Liberal leader in the province of Quebec, who sat in the cabinet of the former government when Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. St. Laurent rocked and rolled the Canadian confederation, is the very man who now wishes to try to convince the people of Quebec that he is all out for autonomy even at the expense of the universities.

The main reason I should like to say a few words this afternoon is that I have in my riding a French speaking university, St. Louis University at Edmundston. I know of the tremendous work done there, of the sacrifice and devotion of the professors who have given and dedicated their lives to education. I also know that the university now gets only a pittance by way of aid. Until this year they were receiving in grants approximately \$12,-500. That amount has been increased this year by 25 per cent, but what they receive is still a pittance. Such grants are not nearly enough, and they do not permit the universities to do the job they wish to do and have to do. Any action by the government in the direction of helping the universities is most welcome.

In passing may I say that the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming), who have taken the initiative in this matter, as well as the late Hon. Maurice Duplessis and the late Hon. Paul Sauve, former premiers of Quebec, and the present premier, Mr. Barrette, deserve the highest commendation; and they are getting that commendation from 99 per cent of the Canadian population and from every serious citizen of the province of Quebec who believes in the progress of education throughout the country.

When I think of the late Mackenzie King and look across the floor of the house and realize whom he had as an adviser, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill), then I certainly do not blame him for crossing the waters and getting his advice from the voices of the grave by holding hands around a seance table.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am afraid the hon. member is departing from the subject matter of this discussion.

An hon. Member: As usual.