

Trans-Canada Highway Act

read in *Hansard*, and if, by any chance, he meant it, I am sure he regrets it.

These are, Mr. Chairman, the remarks I wanted to make about this resolution, and I hope that I will have the opportunity, on second reading, to refer again to this very interesting matter of the trans-Canada highway.

Mr. Meunier: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few remarks on this resolution, because of the statement made last Friday by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Green). Here is what I find at page 1244 of *Hansard*:

Subsequent to this enactment nine of the 10 provinces entered into agreements for participating in this project. Quebec has not signed an agreement to participate under this particular statute. That famous old province did not make any agreement under the original act and it has not participated either under the amendments of 1956.

Mr. Chairman, I realize the minister's amazement when he describes that province as being old and famous, but may I say to him that if, in his opinion, the province of Quebec is backward, such is not the case with all those who live there.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member is out of order.

(Text):

Mr. Green: I said nothing about the province of Quebec being backward. In fact, I think it is very progressive.

Mr. Meunier: That is what I said.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, Quebec is the province where the unemployment situation is most serious at the present time. If the provincial authorities had joined the trans-Canada highway construction program, not only would they have benefited by it in many ways but they would have relieved unemployment.

The province of Quebec is admittedly losing about \$28 million by refusing to join the trans-Canada highway construction program, and its refusal is based mostly on a false concept of autonomy.

Mr. Chairman, to back my statement, let me give an example of the contradictions involved in that false double way autonomy.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. Meunier: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm does not understand anything about this matter.

[Mr. Bourget.]

(Text):

I am dealing with the statement made by the minister in explaining the resolution. The hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm understands nothing because he is always in a narrow straitjacket and cannot understand anything.

(Translation):

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, we are here to discuss national problems and not provincial matters.

(Text):

Mr. Meunier: That is a national problem.

(Translation):

Mr. Bourget: Is the province of Quebec not part of Canada?

Mr. Boulanger: Tell us about the provincial farm credit.

Mr. Meunier: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give an example of the contradictions found in that false double way autonomy, to back up what I say.

On February 20, last Friday, the provincial minister of highways obtained from the Quebec legislative assembly an \$800,000 vote for the elimination of level crossings—

Mr. Pigeon: Order.

(Text):

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I will have to ask the hon. member to come back to the trans-Canada highway and not deal with provincial matters, especially with a province that apparently has not signed an agreement.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order raised by Your Honour, surely the minister will be the first to agree that this legislation applies equally to all the provinces of Canada and the fact that the government of Quebec has not seen fit to take advantage of the legislation surely should not preclude a member representing a constituency in the province of Quebec from pointing out the advantages to his constituents of the government of that province taking advantage of the legislation. That, I apprehend, is what the hon. member is doing.

The Deputy Chairman: That, of course, is strictly a provincial matter and he cannot discuss proceedings that take place in a provincial legislature. The Chair is being quite lenient in allowing members to make these references in order to try to make their point, but I hope that they will not labour this matter.

Mr. Meunier: This is a national problem. This is a national highway.