

Dominion-Provincial Relations

those statements to make a completely baseless assertion. On that particular point with which I am directly concerned, let me simply recall the reply I made to my good friend the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Brassard) when, at the very end of the speech on the second reading of the bill, I indicated that the reason why we were in favour of the bill as a whole was that, despite its weaknesses arising from the fact that it stems from a precedent inherited from the former Liberal government—and that is the cause of its weaknesses—it brought about substantial improvement in relations between the federal government and the provinces in general and Quebec in particular, and that it was a step out of the squeeze in which the provinces had found themselves ever since the day in 1951, when they had got themselves involved in that perilous adventure.

Mr. Chairman, it is an honourable compromise, a loyal and courageous effort. And right now, by the way, I want to express our gratitude to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming)—and I am sincere in saying this; I want to tell him how grateful we are that he understood in the very first days we entered this house—we who came here to uphold rights and constitutional liberties which belong to the provinces in general and to the province of Quebec in particular—I want to tell him how grateful we are that he has understood our viewpoint when for 10 or 15 years his mind could have become beclouded by the brand of Canadianism that was being preached under the former government.

Now here is another one whom some hon. members tried to ridicule and whom I want to include in my tribute, and I confess that what hurt me most was the fact that those attempts came from some of our fellow citizens from the province of Quebec who are sitting in this house—I make an exception for several of them—a small number of those present who have made a show of disunity and who do not hesitate to throw mud on their own province as well as on the people who sent them here to represent them.

Do not be alarmed, Mr. Chairman, this closes the chapter of my praises.

The Chairman: I presume the chairman can trust that the hon. member will now come to the amendment—

Mr. Dorion: Certainly. Those were preliminary remarks which, I think, were necessary, in order to say how much I appreciated the work of the hon. member for

Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer) and more particularly when he succeeded in reaching the compromise we know.

Mr. Robichaud: There are two sets of standing orders in this house.

Mr. Tremblay: Ignoramus. Dunce

The Chairman: Order. The remarks just made by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) are a reflection on the chairman, and I would ask him to withdraw his words immediately.

Mr. Dorion: Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: Order. Just a moment. I was calling the hon. member for Gloucester to order. I asked him to withdraw his words.

Mr. Robichaud: I said that there were two sets of standing orders.

The Chairman: If the hon. member for Gloucester does not withdraw his words, I will have to report the fact to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Robichaud: Since you demand it, Mr. Chairman, I shall withdraw my words.

Mr. Tremblay: Anyhow, it is quite unimportant.

Mr. Dorion: It's a good thing I did not understand.

Mr. Chairman, we have here an amendment whose purpose is to delete from the bill the following words:

Subject to terms and conditions not inconsistent with those contained in any agreement entered into under subsection (2).

In other words—and this is what I gathered from the statements made by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier)—the hon. member for Laurier who, as everyone knows, is a staunch autonomist, the hon. member for Laurier sees there—

Mr. Johnson: Has been seeing for the last three days—

Mr. Dorion: ... a sort of subservience or bondage for the provinces that will resort to this new formula or method, a sort of subservience of those provinces to the federal government.

The other day I heard him, very eloquently as always, reproach me for pointing out in the speech I made on second reading, what I considered and still consider as a fantastic encroachment upon the field or existence of powers of provinces and universities, because, according to an order in council passed in 1952, which has remained in force until 1956