

Dominion-Provincial Relations

regime, want the province of Quebec to kneel down again, and continue to refuse the share which is due, in all justice, to Quebec universities. But today it is not necessary to bow, because we have received and obtained exactly what had been taken away from us, that is to say we have recovered our taxation power in the province of Quebec. That is why, Mr. Chairman, our hon. friends opposite are against this bill.

(Text):

Mr. Chevrier: Is the Minister of Finance going to raise a point of order?

(Translation):

Mr. English: Instead of talking and delaying the adoption of the bill, they should rise and thank the Minister of Finance and the Conservative government for having given the province of Quebec what their party had taken away from it in the past.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I am rather surprised that the Minister of Finance, who is an expert in procedural matters, did not raise a point of order during the speech made by the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. English). He is more prone to raise points of order when we have the floor.

However, I did not rise for that purpose, but to say a word about what the Solicitor General said a moment ago. In trying to reply to the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, he referred to a so-called contradiction we have established or tried to establish between what he said and what the Quebec premier said. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is not a so-called contradiction, it is a real contradiction. According to what the Solicitor General said, which is recorded in *Hansard*—and I will not repeat it, because it is already there—it is not a so-called contradiction but a real contradiction that exists between the Solicitor General who says there is an agreement and Mr. Barrette who says there has been no understanding or agreement or whatever you may call it.

An hon. Member: You are all mixed up.

Mr. Chevrier: And you went further when you said a moment ago that we are not forcing Quebec to sign anything. Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, that neither did the former government force Quebec to sign anything, and if it is true—

Mr. Balcer: May I—
[Mr. English.]

Mr. Chevrier: Wait. I am answering your question.

Mr. Tremblay: He is a bit mixed up; he will recover.

Mr. Chevrier: If it is true that you did not force the province of Quebec to sign anything under the agreement between the Minister of Finance and the Canadian universities foundation, the fact remains that the agreement is incorporated in the bill, which makes the province of Quebec subject to the agreement. As a result, the province of Quebec is bound by the agreement, in addition to being bound by the definitions of the expressions “university”, “university level”, and others about which we heard so many complaints from the hon. members for Bellechasse and for Charlevoix (Messrs. Dorion and Asselin) the other day.

Does the Solicitor General wish to ask me a question?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the hon. member for Laurier to show me, in the parts of my speech that he quoted, where I said there had been an agreement—and I stress the word “agreement”—between the government of the province of Quebec and the federal government?

Mr. Chevrier: Very well, Mr. Chairman. In two places—

Mr. Balcer: I ask the hon. member for Laurier whether he can indicate where I made such an assertion.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I shall answer the question of the Solicitor General.

First, let me refer to page 3286 of *Hansard* for April 26, 1960, in the middle of the second column, which reads as follows:

Federal ministers discussed it with Mr. Sauvé—

Mr. Balcer: Yes.

Mr. Chevrier:

—and at the time of his tragic death, only a few details remained to be worked out, which was done during a private interview between Mr. Antonio Barrette, Mr. Sauvé's successor, and the Minister of Finance, sponsor of the bill which is now before us.

Then, Mr. Chairman, what happened is that the federal ministers—the Solicitor General being absent—after discussing it with the late premier and the present premier of the province of Quebec, reached a conclusion except for a few details which were clarified later on.