

*Dominion-Provincial Relations*

unconstitutional, and that the whole fiscal system established by the St. Laurent government, and inspired by the evangelist Lamontagne, is totally, completely and irremediably unconstitutional. I wonder what the Liberal opposition is driving at.

Mr. Speaker, our Liberal opponents make much of the fact that the federal government can, under this bill, withhold a certain amount from the equalization payments of the province of Quebec. But fond as they are of quoting Mr. Duplessis, have they forgotten that Mr. Duplessis never looked upon those equalization payments as anything but refunds on account of moneys illegitimately collected by the federal government which thereby infringed upon the fiscal rights of the province?

Mr. Speaker, what struck me in the argument used by the member for Timmins (Mr. Martin) was his suggestion that education had to suffer from the debates concerning government jurisdiction with regard to federal grants to universities. To infer from this that Quebec universities have suffered from the debate that has been going on since 1952 respecting federal assistance to universities, there is only one step.

This is a fable that must be destroyed at all costs. We owe it to the excellent reputation of our educational system in Quebec, a system built upon sacrifice and thanks to the unshakable faith and perseverance of our educators since the dark days of 1760. We owe it to the good name of our universities which, after the regrettable discussion of federal aid to universities, very undeservedly acquired the reputation of poor relatives in our provincial educational system. We also owe it to the good name of the talented and devoted men who dedicated all their energy to the defense of cultural values peculiar to the French speaking ethnical group in Canada. We owe it to the memory of two great Canadians—yes, great Canadians—who, as history will proclaim, gave the best years of their lives to that work—I was going to say all their lives—those two great men now deceased, the Hon. Maurice Duplessis and the Hon. Paul Sauve. We also owe it in all fairness to their successor, the hon. Antonio Barrette, who is following in their footsteps and who made of the last session of the provincial legislature the session of education. In a word, we owe it to mere justice, to truth itself.

It has been said on various occasions, even in this house, and, I think, if my memory serves me well, that I have heard it said by some of my Liberal colleagues, that Quebec universities lost about \$8 million, because Mr. Duplessis was opposed to federal grants.

[Mr. Johnson.]

If I remember well, that was the statement of the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Leduc), and I refer to *Hansard* for April 1, 1960.

Now, Mr. Speaker, nothing is more inaccurate than such a statement. Indeed, I have here some figures which prove that, even if the provincial government had been opposed to federal university grants since 1952, for reasons which I think were legitimate and easily justifiable in the eyes of people of good faith, our Quebec universities received from their own provincial government infinitely larger grants than those offered by the federal government.

Let us look at the figures for the years 1952-53. The amount offered by the federal government to Quebec universities was \$2,087,000; the amount paid by the province of Quebec was, that year, \$7,330,980.13; for 1953-54, the federal offer was \$2,134,500; the sum paid by the provincial government to its universities reached \$6,786,183.51; the amount offered in 1954-55 by the federal government was \$2,177,000, whereas the total paid by the provincial government of Mr. Duplessis to universities in Quebec, was \$13,342,542.45; for 1955-56, \$2,260,000 were paid by the federal government; the amount given by the provincial government of Quebec to its universities, that is, by a government responding to the universities' request, reached \$19,203,287.63. For 1956-57, on the basis of \$1 per capita, the federal government offered those universities an amount of \$4,628,376, while the provincial government paid a total of \$11,608,385.88; in 1957-58, also on the basis of \$1 per capita, the federal government offered \$4,758,000, whereas the provincial government paid \$21,701,762.29.

Grants were offered by the federal government in 1957-58, by trampling on the constitution and the rights of Quebec \$4,758,000; amounts offered by the Quebec government in full accordance with confederation and the constitution, \$21,701,000. In 1958-59, the federal government offered \$7 million, whereas the Quebec government paid \$9,291,000. The total amount of grants offered by the federal government was \$25,470,000, while the Quebec government gave \$57 million to its universities.

Some account should also be taken of the devotion to duty of the Diefenbaker government, of the tremendous work of the Minister of Finance within the Diefenbaker government, and also of the provincial government's co-operation, because the provincial government had confidence in the new federal administration, and knew that it would not try to strangle the province of Quebec but would