

Private Bills

Mr. Howard: I do not intend to do that, Mr. Chairman, but having listened to the questions asked by the hon. member for Lapointe and the answers he received, it seemed to me that they touched upon that which the hon. member for Lapointe considers to be the rights of a provincial government, specifically Quebec, under the constitution. There was some expression to the effect that this particular association of universities and colleges of Canada would not encroach upon those rights. That is an extremely broad subject which goes beyond the bill; however, it is something that we must consider.

I do not wish to get into that subject matter, Mr. Chairman, but it has always seemed strange to me that we should be called upon to take two different attitudes, one which applies to one province and another which applies to another province. That is precisely what we are being asked to do. It seems to me that when we are enacting laws in this parliament of Canada we should do so with the knowledge that there will be universal application rather than—

The Chairman: Order, please. I have re-read clause 1 of this bill but I cannot see that the comments which are now being made by the hon. member are relevant. I appreciate that some reference was made by the hon. member for Lapointe to the subject now being discussed by the hon. member for Skeena, but the hon. member for Lapointe asked specific questions, one of which was related to the consequences of the passage of this bill, and whether they would affect the relationship between the federal and provincial governments on matters of education. The answer to that question was that they would not have that effect. I suggest that answer ends the discussion in respect of that problem. If the hon. member for Skeena continues along the lines he has been following it is my opinion he will be going beyond the terms of the bill, and certainly beyond the terms of this specific clause.

Mr. Howard: With your guidance, Mr. Chairman, it might be that I should properly raise this matter during our consideration of a subsequent clause, namely clause 8 which deals with the powers of the association. Clause 8 (e) deals with powers to take, receive, accept or acquire property, rights or money, personal or real, movable or immovable. Presumably this association will have the power to distribute that money. Perhaps I should raise my question as to what the

association will do with the money it receives from this parliament in respect of that clause. If I was in error in raising this question on clause 1 I certainly apologize, but I felt that because the hon. member for Lapointe got into a discussion in this regard, although in a small way, I would be able to do the same.

Miss Jewett: Mr. Chairman, like you, I do not really see the relevance of the hon. member's argument to any clause of the bill, in fact.

Perhaps I may be allowed to make a few remarks to clarify one statement which has been made. The hon. member seems to feel that this association will have at its discretion certain powers in relation to giving certain amounts of federal money to universities of Canada. The association will not have such a discretionary power.

Mr. Howard: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, but it has such powers.

Miss Jewett: If the parliament of Canada decides that the association shall continue to be the distributing agency of per capita grants in certain provinces, as it has decided, that will be the case. If the parliament of Canada also decides that there shall be some other method of distributing these per capita grants in the province of Quebec, as it has decided, all this association will be able to do is carry out that will of parliament. What the hon. member is suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is that we consider this whole large and very important area in respect of how per capita grants should be and are being distributed. Surely that is not relevant to this bill, which is designed to set up the association. This association does not have the discretionary freedom to decide how these funds are to be distributed.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether you will be courteous enough to permit me to ask, out of ignorance, what enactment or authority exists which limits the control or restricts the powers of the association to distribute moneys received from the parliament of Canada.

Miss Jewett: This is done by the parliament of Canada itself.

Mr. Grégoire: Oh, no.

Miss Jewett: If I understood the hon. member correctly, he was asking who decides whether the grant is to be \$2 per capita or otherwise. That is done by the parliament of