

*Trans-Canada Highway Act*

this house, instead of just accusing us on behalf of the province, of violating the rights of Quebec.

You have been elected in Quebec because you said that you would salvage all the rights that those wicked Liberals had taken away. If that is the case, prove it now. Do not hide behind the curtains. Take your responsibilities.

**Mr. Pigeon:** We are not afraid, not at all afraid. We have not sat pat for 22 years as you did.

**Mr. Denis:** You sat down between two stools.

**Mr. Bourget:** We have seen great repudiations, starting with the great repudiation by their provincial leader in the province of Quebec; but we shall have other occasions to refer to that.

I said that the most nationalist and autonomist newspapers rightfully blamed the government of the province of Quebec—

**Mr. Pigeon:** The reform.

**Mr. Bourget:** Many a time, we have heard the late premier, Hon. Maurice Duplessis, and after him, the present premier of our province, as well as the present minister of highways, emphatically state that this project was altogether unacceptable, and incompatible with Quebec autonomy.

Yet it will be remembered that not so long ago the Hon. Paul Sauve stated that autonomy should be forgotten for the time being. He said that an important matter of dollars and cents was involved in that project. I am not the one who said this. It was said by your former leader who for four months recently, was prime minister of the province. And he added, after pointing out that the province of Quebec had built a good portion of the road entirely on its own:

Why should we not get some financial compensation?

And then, quite rightly, he said:

Why should we be dupes?

That is clear, quite clear. I hope my fellow members from the other provinces realize the problem and understand what we mean.

To Mr. Sauve it was not a question of autonomy but of the benefits we might derive therefrom. It was a business matter. That is how he saw the interest of his province.

**Mr. Denis:** Contracts without tenders.

**Mr. Pigeon:** With a sob in his voice.

**Mr. Bourget:** With a sob in his voice Mr. Chairman, if you had heard those people since 1944 when they were talking about autonomy; if you had heard them say on the platform that French Canadians were going to lose their institutions, their language, if we lost autonomy.

I personally heard myself the ex-premier of the province—

**Mr. Ricard:** Tell us about conscription.

(Text):

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I think the hon. member must realize he is straying away from the subject of the resolution before us.

**Mr. Bourget:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I did realize I was straying away but I was invited to do so and sought to comply with the request of my hon. friend.

(Translation):

**Mr. Pigeon:** You are talking like Jean Lesage. Jean Lesage has no seat.

**Mr. Bourget:** He shall have one.

**Mr. Pigeon:** No, he is licked before he starts.

(Text):

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. The rules permit only one hon. member at a time to have the floor.

(Translation):

**Mr. Bourget:** Unfortunately, this is not the policy of Mr. Sauve's successor because since March—and I am talking about the new premier of the province of Quebec, he—

**Mr. Denis:** That is not so sure.

**Mr. Bourget:** He stated in the legislature:

If our government did not share in this project—

(Text):

**Mr. Walker:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have sat here for 15 minutes because of the respect I hold for the hon. member for Levis but the resolution provides for an extension of the time to complete the three years and makes provision for another \$50 million and in no way concerns the province of Quebec which is not participating in the Trans-Canada Highway Act and I therefore respectfully suggest that the hon. member's speech which has been devoted entirely to a discussion of the policies in the province of Quebec is out of order at this time.