

Government Organization

sectors which must necessarily be integrated to form a whole. This has been demonstrated many times, when for instance we had discussions with industrialists about marketing their production and we had to run from one department to another.

I think that this department will be a bonanza for all producers, and businessmen as well as for the whole population.

Even if we are in favour of establishing this department, there are some points I want to bring to the minister's attention.

The minister made this statement and I quote from *Hansard*, page 6492:

I feel honoured and challenged by the mandate given me to bring together the qualities and capabilities of the present Departments of Industry and Trade and Commerce and to forge for the future the kind of strong, forward-looking ministry.

I second the minister in that institution but I wonder about the gifted and competent people he will have to bring together. I am trying to find out who will run to show in that department, and I see on page 6493 of *Hansard* that his first assistant deputy minister is Mr. Kniewasser, the second Mr. Head, the third Mr. Mundy, the fourth Mr. Schwarzmann, and the fifth Mr. Warren. The minister went on to say:

Mr. Chairman, I could go on enumerating... responsibilities but I will refrain from it.

I should have liked him to tell us when there might be a French Canadian in a key position.

Mr. Pepin: It would have been the next name: Mr. Sénécal.

Mr. Gauthier: The next one? I am glad to hear it, because that had me a bit worried. I could not believe that the minister could make such a mistake.

In fact, we should not have forgiven him for it. We are always happy to see a French Canadian filling a ministerial post. The same thing applies when French Canadian people become top officials. It is so much pleasanter for us to be able to speak our own language in official dealings.

Unfortunately, there are still some offices where we find it very difficult to do so; sometimes a young secretary has to act as an interpreter. And they say that bilingualism is extolled in the civil service. It is a strange kind of bilingualism indeed, and I want to draw the minister's attention to that point. I know he is capable of keeping an eye on that aspect of things. I wish all ministers would do

[Mr. Gauthier.]

the same, so that the government might really become bilingual. First senior officials should become bilingual, to enable all members to contact them in their mother tongue.

English speaking people like to be able to express themselves in their own language in any department. That is all we want; we do not ask for special privileges; give us what they have and no more. We want to be able to speak French in every department. Although we get by in English French is our tongue and this is a fact which is recognized today by the government. The point is that it must not be forgotten in the books, we must not let this legislation gather dust and the French language and bilingualism ought to be promoted. I know that senior officials are qualified to hold such and such position. However another condition is required: they must also be bilingual. Let them learn French. We had to learn it. To come to Canada, people had to learn English. If they are in the public service, let them learn French because they will have to deal with French Canadian people who also like to preserve and to speak their own tongue.

I just wanted to call the minister's attention on that point.

I heard the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) put earlier a question to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain). This is what he said: How come production is decreasing? Production decreases while imports increase in Canada. Why? The answer is simple. I still wonder why the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe asked that question and why the hon. member for Trois-Rivières was unable to give him an answer. It is because the industries do not get the assistance which they need; there is always—

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

As a rule, my hon. friend has regard for the facts. In this case, he says that the hon. member for Trois-Rivières was unable to answer. This is not correct. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières decided to mind his own business; he said that the minister was in the process of setting up a study and that the answer would come from him.

I could have given it, Mr. Chairman, but I would have committed an indiscretion.

Mr. Gauthier: I was just going to say it, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member always puts the blame on somebody else. What do we find today? We find that essential assistance—I am