

newspapers. They could not make a decent speech without quoting something. If they did not have an editorial staff to write their speeches, editorials and articles in the press, we would gain at least three quarters of the time we are now losing by listening to members opposite quoting from newspapers during their speeches. I felt that possibly I should do the same once—so that they could see what it is like.

An hon. Member: You do not have a very good audience.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): They are not very appreciative of this fact.

Mr. Forrestall: No one over there is paying attention to you.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Recently, the Prime Minister was criticized. He was quoted as saying that British Columbia adopted a bigoted attitude towards bilingualism.

Mr. Woolliams: He called Bennett a bigot.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Is that it? Stand up and correct that statement for me. The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) will do it for me.

Mr. Woolliams: We will get the facts straight for you.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): The opposition does not practice what it preaches. They also speak while remaining seated, but that is all right; I am used to that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You are honest, Joe.

[Translation]

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to an article published in *Le Soleil*, the only French-language newspaper in British Columbia. The few lines I have here reflect the feelings of the Francophones not only in British Columbia, but throughout Canada and more particularly in western Canada.

Here is what they say:

The attitude of the provincial government toward French Canadians must change, and the best time for it is now.

The general public in British Columbia seems to worry about the fact that their premier was described as he appears to be; that reaction is unfortunate and somewhat exaggerated when the incident is seen in context. The general public should worry instead about the discrimination against an official minority in the province, discrimination that starts in the very denial of the existence of that minority. We can start remedying this situation by promoting adequate teaching in and of French in our schools, and by supporting rather than hampering the efforts of existing French Canadian institutions and their culture in British Columbia.

Mr. Trudeau has drawn public attention on the well known fact that the government of British Columbia is working very hard to hamper anything French. Let us note the fact that so far, nobody has yet rejected the charge that the head of the provincial government is following a course which seems based on ignorance and narrow-mindedness. The people around him justify his attitudes and policy despite their lack of soundness.

Speech from the Throne

He maintains that French Canadians—the one million of them outside Quebec and more particularly the 90,000-odd in British Columbia—have no right outside Quebec and must accept that.

It can certainly be recognized that it is increasingly urgent and essential that French Canadians be entitled to their language and their culture throughout Canada—even in British Columbia—or else we are going toward fragmentation of our country.

So far, extremists, whether English- or French-speaking, have not been successful in dividing us and they will not sunder us if moderate men are sufficiently anxious to work against any policy of division or discrimination which might exist in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to keep on quoting the article of the same paper:

In order to clarify any misunderstanding, let us mention that there are close to 90,000 French Canadians living in British Columbia, and more than one million outside Quebec, in the nine other provinces.

To put everything into perspective, six of the Canadian provinces have fewer than one million inhabitants, so the million of French Canadians outside Quebec is an important group indeed.

The federal policy on bilingualism is undoubtedly favourable to Quebec and a critical factor for the survival of French Canadians outside Quebec.

Bilingualism is of primary importance for the 1,000,000 French-speaking Canadians residing outside Quebec, and no anti-Quebec sentiment should enter the discussion merely to justify an anti-French-Canadian policy in British Columbia.

That province's government does not provide adequate opportunities for the teaching of French, either to French Canadians or to English Canadians, and an anti-Quebec feeling can no longer justify such a deplorable situation.

If Premier Bennett is not a bigot, let him prove it through his policy, because it is only through this that we will be able to judge.

[English]

I think that really tells the story of how people feel. This editorial was written by a Francophone in British Columbia. The same applies to other Francophone groups in western Canada, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta where they are certainly numerous. I deplore the fact that after having voted for unity and bilingualism in Canada, some members of the loyal opposition make statements that are contrary to the principles they have supported. In fact, this is evident from what they have said in the past few days. The members of the opposition should either put up or shut up. They should tell the Prime Minister, if they accept his challenge, what they would do if they formed the government. Then, they might make a valuable contribution to proper legislation being passed in this House. The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) said that this was a forum in which to discuss policies and all kinds of problems. I think it is also a responsibility to come up with something that is sensible. They should make sensible suggestions and not just speak for the sake of speaking.

I would like to speak briefly about something which has been on my mind for a long time, the old age pension. I do not always agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), but I somewhat agree with his philosophies in this regard. I will support an increase in the old age pension. I would certainly be pleased if this came about and I will make personal representations to the government in that regard. I will make every attempt