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This Bill, therefore, becomes necessary to promote both official languages in this country by weakening the resistance to them.

From the brief historical background which I have given at the beginning of my remarks, it is clear that Provincial Legislatures often take unfortunate steps, either by statute, administrative acts or regulations, which result in a reduction of minority rights.

Bill C-72 will provide Canadians with important tools and will make it possible for these minority groups to show what they are capable of. I suggest some people are wrong to fear that administrative bilingualism will threaten their future and that of their children if they remain unilingual. We will have to re-assure these people and continue to work towards mutual understanding. Together with the Constitution, this Bill will become an indispensable tool towards this goal.

Madam Speaker, you are indicating to me that my time has expired. I wish I could go on, but I will conclude by saying: we are urging the Government to bring Bill C-72 before the House, so that we may have a democratic debate where, hopefully, justice and fairness will prevail while being both generous and fair to all.

Mr. Grisé: Madam Speaker, I was listening to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), in which he eulogized the contents of Bill C-72, a Bill that, I may add, was tabled by this Government. The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier set himself up as the defender of Bill C-72, and I think there is something wrong here. Bill C-72 as it stands today an excellent Bill as the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier said—was tabled by this Government. It was drafted by this Government. Bill C-72 was instigated by the Joint Committee, first under the joint chairmanship of the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin), succeeded by the Hon. Member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Desjardins), both excellent, and as far as I know, both Members on the Government side.

I have a short question for the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier. He was of course referring to the Meech Lake Accord which recognizes linguistic duality, and the Hon. Member would like to take advantage of any disagreement that may exist in this respect in the Conservative Caucus. Madam Speaker, I think that during the last three and a half years this Government has done an excellent job on Bill C-72 with respect to official languages and on the Meech Lake Accord where Canada's linguistic duality is recognized. I think there is absolutely no doubt about the Conservative Government's outstanding record on these issues.

Mr. Prud'homme: What was the question?

Mr. Grisé: I would like to ask my question, if the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) would give me a chance, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Prud'homme: I can't wait!

Mr. Grisé: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier said that our Government lost interest and that we failed to make any progress. Where was the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier when the Liberals were in power from 1969 to 1984? What did the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier do between 1980 and 1984 to improve the Official Languages Act?

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, how much time do I have left? Three or four minutes?

Mr. Prud'homme: Four minutes.

Mr. Gauthier: Where was I? Here in the House, and I have been since 1972. Before that, I was in this province, fighting for French in our schools, so that my children could go to French schools paid for with public funds. I did that for twelve years. Before that, I was active in community service through the Richelieu Club and that sort of thing. I tried to set up mechanisms and institutions that would be useful to my community, to my particular group. I wanted to give my community a chance to succeed. The Hon. Member may not be aware of the fact that in 1968 in Ontario, only 14 per cent of my fellow Franco-Ontarians finished high school. There were no schools for the rest. On both the social and the educational fronts, I fought battles whenever I felt I had to.

I came here in 1972, and in June 1973, we had to vote on this Parliamentary resolution calling for the implementation of an administrative bilingualism which would make it possible for civil servants to be promoted to positions where they could use their own language, a resolution which would promote equal opportunities. Well, you need only look at the figures to realize the enormous improvements made since then. There were clearly short comings, something we realized later. In 1979, the Committee on Official Languages was established by Joe Clark, a former Tory Prime Minister, and under his direction. I paid him a visit with Mr. De Bané and Mr. Joyal in 1979. You need to know that when we asked him for a Parliamentary Committee to deal with this problem, he granted us our request. His Government was defeated. What can I say? The Committee under Mr. Clark never met, but as soon as Mr. Trudeau came to power in 1980, he established a Standing Committee which I had the honour to chair. I think all Members of this House, including the Hon. Member's own colleagues, are aware that I still sit on the Standing Committee on Official Languages. We try, but it is not easy. Today, I have not mentioned a single violation by the Federal administration, I did not blame the RCMP, I did not allude to the problems we experience every day in the administration of the Act, but I can say to the Hon. Members that I was here and doing the utmost to make the majority move.