

*Speech from the Throne*

opinion that because the policy of the federal government has created this situation, we should be prepared to jump over the constitutional barrier and give support to bilingual education in the elementary and secondary schools here. Many people believe that if this were done they would be heartened as to the future and be more prepared to face their own problems.

Second, the increasingly bilingual nature of this city has produced problems in the private sector. The private sector is not like the public sector which has a more tender concern and is bound by statute and moral obligation to look after its employees. I, and no doubt others, have heard of cases where employees have suddenly been dismissed because it has been decided to make this or that operation bilingual. I am told this is true. This question was raised and debated at a public meeting a few weeks ago which was sponsored by the CBC. A number of people have become unemployed because they are not bilingual and now, through the auspices of the Department of Manpower and other federal agencies, are not even able to acquire an elementary language course which might make them suitable for their old career. This type of language training should be added to manpower courses.

My time is drawing to a close. There are many things I could have spoken about such as the problems of farming, recreation and business in my constituency. However, I have spoken as fully and, I hope, as fairly as I could about this supremely important national problem. I believe that if we do not do this properly in the Ottawa region, and if we continue to not recognize the problem which exists, we will create a condition which will become a festering sore in the whole of the country. There is evidence available to me, as I am sure there is to other hon. members, that this is becoming a matter of concern elsewhere in this country. In the application of the bilingual policy, we should recognize that there is a crisis of confidence. There is disbelief, to an alarming degree, about the fairness of the policy. There is a credibility gap in many of the explanations which have been made about it.

I suggest that if the rather modest and sensible proposals made by Mr. Spicer and myself were implemented, we would go a long way towards correcting the grave problems which we face.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, may I say at the outset that my participation in the debate could have been improved had I followed the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand). I express gratitude for what he has said. However, flattery is very healthy, except if you inhale it.

I want all hon. members present to inhale at least two words which the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion said with regard to a subject which I have been following closely for over three years. I refer to the situation affecting the Cape Breton miners under the Devco Corporation. The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion referred to my representations. That is right and justified.

I very much appreciate the acceptance by hon. members of a petition put before this House on this subject

[Mr. Blair.]

matter. I also very much appreciate the findings of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs which came out with a very favourable and unanimous report with regard to the petition.

• (1700)

The minister having said I was right and justified, and every member here today having received correspondence from me, and not a member in this assembly to whom I have spoken having found fault with the representations I have been making—this includes many members on the government side who have listened fairly to the representations I have made—I feel my action was justified. My timing would have been better had I been able to follow the minister and remind everyone of the remarks he made with respect to my representations as being right and justified.

Of course, my timing might have been even better had I been able to follow up in debate the information made available by the Order in Council passed on December 7 remitting certain taxes to Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited. This is a United States oil company. I say this because the Sun Oil Company of Philadelphia owns most of the capital stock and has provided major production finance. This oil company entered the literary field and immediately produced a best seller—a hard luck story which it sold for \$6 million. There is not an author alive who could have done better.

**An hon. Member:** What about Clifford Irving?

**Mr. MacInnis:** Even Irving could not have done as well as this. Mr. Speaker, I do not pretend to tell you a story which will bring us \$6 million, as much as Great Canadian Oil Sands got for its hard luck story, though I am sure I have a Pulitzer prize-winner here. We can start with the most recent move made by Devco. It is disturbing. It is unfortunate. It will bring about serious economic and social problems in the mining towns in Cape Breton. On Friday last, despite the legislation which has been placed before us, despite the appeals made by many people—including a committee composed of municipal, provincial and union representatives who came to Ottawa within the last couple of weeks—the corporation has again closed a colliery, this time in the town of Glace Bay. I say this in defiance of the legislation which has been passed in the House setting up the corporation.

I should refer momentarily to the preamble to Bill C-135, an act to establish the Cape Breton Development Corporation. In that preamble the operative words are, "for the modernization and rehabilitation . . ." "Mr. Speaker, no attempt whatsoever was made to rehabilitate or modernize. This cannot be denied. The preamble to the legislation goes further. It says the duty of the corporation is to—

—reorganize and operate the mines with a view to the rationalization of coal production therefrom and the progressive withdrawal of the corporation from such production in accordance with a plan which takes into account progress in providing employment outside the coal-producing industry and in broadening the base of the island's economy.

I say, without fear of contradiction, that the closing of No. 20 colliery on Friday last is in contradiction of the terms of this legislation. The petition placed before the