

The Budget—Mr. Watson

barn years before, decided to move into land assembly. It will do some good, but it is a tragedy that the province did not act much earlier to take advantage of this land assembly program which could reduce land speculation, and push down house prices.

I want to make reference to two or three other areas before finishing. I hope that the budget, with its implications of restraint, will not result in any cutback in the Department of the Secretary of State with regard to student exchanges. I know that the student exchange program has the support of all parties in this House. I fail to understand why the department has not extended that program even further. In the exchanges between Quebec and the other provinces there is a lack of growth which I find hard to understand. I urge the government to expand and not, by any stretch of the imagination, even to consider cutting back on that program.

In its spending considerations I urge the Department of the Secretary of State to look at the way it is spending money on the bilingualism program. In my view, there is a very serious lack of result in the program as it affects senior and higher level civil servants. This business of sending people to Quebec City for a year, with all expenses paid, plus every possible amenity, is producing results of some kind. However, when one considers the cost, it is highly doubtful that it is justified when an equivalent amount of money could be used to encourage bilingual education in an area where everyone recognizes it counts most, the pre-school and primary school levels.

I must say that even in the national capital area we are not doing nearly enough in this regard. Anyone in the Ottawa area who has tried to send their children to a good French language school will back me up in what I have to say. I strongly urge the government to consider a program of subsidizing pre-school education, not only in the national capital region but in other parts of this country. This kind of encouragement of bilingualism would produce far more results than anything any government has done.

Certainly the kind of efforts we have seen emanating from the province of Quebec have not done that. Bill 22 was purportedly supposed to support the French fact. In

some respects, it is acceptable, when it encourages the use of French as a language of work and gives every Quebec worker the right to work in his own language. Some of the complaints about that bill are exaggerated. They are simply not supported by the way in which the bill is being applied. However, there are other parts of the bill which by their heavy handed intrusions into areas of individual freedoms of choice have generated a large amount of animosity. The net result is when you get this attitude toward a piece of legislation, anything that relates to it comes under suspicion. The ultimate result is that the legislation is largely negative in influence and impact.

We at the federal level should be doing some things which should have been done many years ago and which are still necessary in encouraging bilingualism. We should put money where it really counts, making our youngsters bilingual early, at the easiest time of their lives to become bilingual.

If there is to be a cutback in the Department of the Secretary of State I hope that it does not touch these two areas, bilingual education and student exchanges, both of which offer more hope for Canada than almost anything else.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. May we who are here wish you, the other occupants of the chair, those at the table, all hon. members, and our staff a happy weekend and a happy first of July.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until two o'clock p.m., Wednesday, July 2, 1975, pursuant to the provisions of the order passed today.

[*English*]

I wish to thank the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). In return, I wish every one of you a happy weekend, warm and busy.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.