

• (10:00 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[Translation]

AIRPORTS—MONTREAL—USE OF FRENCH IN DUTY FREE SHOP

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to elaborate tonight on the question I put to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) on October 12, 1967, as follows:

Has the minister been advised that, at the Dorval airport, some concessionaires, such as the duty free shop, prevent and discourage the use of the French language by the customers who shop there. Will he take immediate steps to ensure that no discrimination is exercised with regard to the two official languages of Canada?

I want to protest strongly against the refusal to speak French on the part of certain persons and concessionaires at the Dorval federal airport.

Our days of humiliation are over. The time of persecution and discrimination is past.

We, French Canadians, have had enough of being insulted by representatives or concessionaires of the Ottawa government or crown corporations. And when, in addition, these insults take place on Quebec territory, our exasperation knows no bounds.

Often in this house or elsewhere, the question is asked as to what Quebec and French Canada want or complain about. Here is another example among thousands to illustrate our frustrations and our determination to demand substantial reforms.

I have already had the opportunity in this house to denounce such iniquities by certain employees of the Canadian Pacific in Montreal suburbs and by certain officers of the R.C.M.P. here in Ottawa.

If the two official languages of Canada are to be developed and given equal treatment, if national understanding is to grow and flourish the Ottawa government must first set an example, adopt legislation and make rules to prevent such discrimination and to promote the harmonious respect of the two cultures.

The federal government should advise all its employees and those of crown corporations or agencies within its immediate or

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

indirect jurisdiction, that it intends to lay off or withdraw every privilege from Canadians who are so narrow minded as to behave like the individuals from the above-mentioned concerns.

Ottawa should also officially protest, after inquiries have been made, in respect to any instance that is brought to its knowledge where its recommendations in this area have not been needed.

Finally, any contract or lease entered into by Ottawa or any of its corporations or agencies should provide for the respect of both official languages in advertising and as working languages.

I hope the hon. minister will take these suggestions in serious consideration and that he will protest vigorously in the case which I have just brought to his attention.

Talking about bilingualism, I should also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) to the unacceptable fact that the new manpower centre at Sherbrooke has employment application forms in English only, when 85 per cent of the people of my riding are French speaking. Therefore, I ask that measures be taken immediately to provide employment application forms in the two official languages.

[English]

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think all members of the house are in sympathy with the objectives of the hon. member as I understood them through the translation system. However, I want to assure him that this particular matter has been brought to the attention of the concessionaire. At the moment there are no regulations that permit the government to insist that a particular language be used. The minister is completely sympathetic, and if the hon. member deems it necessary will again bring the matter to the attention of those who are responsible.

Speaking personally, may I relate something that happened to me quite recently. I sent a message to the cafeteria, and in that message I ordered a toasted lettuce and tomato sandwich. I received a cooked meat or a smoked meat sandwich. When the messenger returned I was told that no one in the cafeteria could read what I had written. That, I presumed, was because my writing was not legible.