

Speech from the Throne

again in future. However, I should like to make one thing clear to the people on the other side of the chamber and to all others who might be inclined to call me a bigot. I am committed to my stand and I will not waver. I will continue to attack this government and its minions on the issue of imposed bilingualism and the attempts on the part of this government to subvert the traditional and honoured rights of the Canadian individual, especially the individual in the public service. I will not stand idly by while Canadians of any race, creed, colour or language preference are given an advantage that is not available to all Canadians; nor will I stand idly by while Canadians are disadvantaged for the same reasons.

It is interesting to note that some members on the other side of the House are quite ready and willing to use the government's bilingualism policies for political purposes, but that they are also ready to jump back into the fold as soon as their leader orders them to. On May 20, 1971, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) told a meeting of his constituency association that he challenged the government's policy on bilingualism in the public service. Well done, I say. He said he was reinforced in his views by the views of his constituents and would continue to oppose the policy. I have here a copy of his statement, as carried in the *Ottawa Journal*. It will be remembered in this House that the hon. member, armed with evidence of abuses under the Official Languages Act, moved a motion in the Commons committee investigating civil service bilingualism. The hon. member's motion was defeated, largely by his own colleagues. He has been warned, in the interim, to desist from such tactics.

Mr. Osler: And who is supporting him on your side?

Mr. Francis: Nobody.

Mr. Paproski: Don't you worry about it, Osler.

Mr. Osler: I just want to know who supported him.

Mr. Alkenbrack: After the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Code) and I moved a motion in this House for the removal of the chairman of the Public Service Commission from office, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton abandoned those principles and came out publicly against me and my colleagues. I have a far more extensive file of documented abuses than the hon. member has, or he would not have dared to abandon his constituents in favour of his government. I wonder if the hon. member will make another flip-flop after his leader calls the next election. I suggest to the hon. member that it may be too late by then; his credibility has suffered too much for him to be able to regain it simply by opening his complaint file and attempting at this late date to get justice for those constituents of his who have suffered needlessly.

Mr. Paproski: Shame.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Speaker, may I get back to what the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton said. He began his speech in a way that fooled me into thinking he was going to be credible. Early in his speech he dealt with economics, agriculture and ecology, areas in which he appears to have an amazing amount of expertise. We are all surprised that he is not a cabinet minister. Then, as recorded in *Hansard*, page 74, he said:

[Mr. Alkenbrack.]

• (1440)

In the first place, the Liberal government, under the leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has said that because most Canadians will always speak only one language, it is necessary for them to be able to do business with their government in either of those official languages.

That is very credible as far as it goes. The hon. member should have stopped right there. He was on a winning kick. It is too bad he could not see it. We are all in favour of ensuring that all Canadians are able to get service from their government in either English or French. The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) initiated that policy many years ago by establishing simultaneous translation in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alkenbrack: The hon. member then proceeded to refer to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). He even referred to the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan). He expressed surprise that the Leader of the Opposition did not make his speech in this chamber the other day on the same topic I have chosen. I fail to see the logic in the member's arguments. I fail to see what that has to do with the stand I have taken on this particular issue. The hon. member will no doubt be surprised to learn that Progressive Conservatives are not required to hang their individuality and responsibility to their constituents in the cloakroom before they enter this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alkenbrack: We are a strong party for many reasons. That is one of the main reasons. We are individuals, not puppets on a string. My leader speaks French and I speak French. However, I fail to see how this should influence my decision to speak out in this House against the abuses perpetrated under the sole excuse that French Canadians should be able to get service from their federal government in the French language.

The hon. member would do well to examine my remarks more closely. He would be well advised to read and reread the complaints he is getting from public servants whose careers have been stopped short because they are not bilingual. He had better heed the warnings being sounded today about the dangers inherent in pitting race against race in this country, as is being done by the federal government. That is being done through the abuses of the powerful who are running the various departments. He and his colleagues in the backbenches will do well to examine the extent to which the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier), the chairmen of the Public Service Commission and the Official Languages Act are destroying the morale and efficiency of the public service, the armed forces and other areas of federal government activity in their zeal to undo a supposed wrong suffered in our past. I have many complaints here, more than a dozen, from personnel in the armed service which are all along the same line. Even if we accept the view that French Canadians have been kept out of the mainstream of Canadian life, and I do not accept it, then two wrongs do not make a right. I am surprised and shocked that that truism has escaped the attention of the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton.