

case hon. members opposite do not know this, I lived the first half of my life, the first 16 years, in Quebec. I am proud to say this. When I left that province I was bilingual. However, after living in British Columbia for 16 years I do not remember much of my French. We really do not have a second language in my province; we speak only one language. It will be a privilege to begin taking French lessons next week. I hope that within one year I will be able to stand in this House and deliver a speech in French.

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

**Mr. Reynolds:** It is a great attribute for one to speak two languages, be they French and English or, as one sees in Europe, French and German.

**Mr. Paproski:** Or Ukrainian.

**Mr. Reynolds:** Mr. Speaker, as you know, our deputy whip comes from Edmonton. My first two children were born in Edmonton, so I can understand why he wants to include Ukrainian. My riding of Burnaby-Richmond-Delta has the largest population of any riding in western Canada. I represent a large number of people of German descent. Ten per cent of the people of British Columbia are of German descent; they make up the largest minority group. The next largest group in my province consists of Dutch people. There are also large numbers of Chinese in Vancouver and in the rest of the province.

Language should not be an issue at election time, but that is one of the first things I shall talk about today because the subject came up more than once in my riding during the last election campaign—and not because I brought it up. This member supported bilingualism when first he was elected to this House in 1972. I think the previous sitting Liberal member was not as strongly in support of bilingualism as I was. In the last election campaign some things happened across the country which bothered me. Why did the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) allow his advertising people to put up, in his own province, billboards which said "Monsieur Trudeau or Mr. Stanfield"? What kind of prime minister would allow that kind of advertisement in his own province when he expects us all in this country to support bilingualism? It should not have been allowed; the Prime Minister himself should not have allowed it to happen.

The Prime Minister came to my riding. As an aside, may I mention that the former parliamentary leader of the New Democratic Party came to my riding. He spoke on behalf of his party and tried to convince the people of my riding not to re-elect me. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) also came to my riding and was made welcome by the people, as was the minister responsible for DREE. The result was interesting. In 1972 I won about 34 per cent of the vote and squeaked in. In the last election I received 58 per cent of the vote and won with the largest majority. I hope the ministers come back to my riding in the next election. If they had visited a few more ridings in Ontario, they might have changed the results of the last election.

I want to talk about the Prime Minister coming to my riding and standing in a shopping centre in front of approximately 2,500 people. He came in his usual manner. I give credit to the Prime Minister. He is one of the

*The Address—Mr. Reynolds*

greatest debaters Canada has ever had. He has charm, he has charisma. In the last election more people preferred to have him as Prime Minister. I accept that. I accepted his coming to my riding and telling people, "Ask where John Reynolds stands on wage and price controls." I supported my leader on that issue. I still do. I think such controls would be good for this country. Then he said, "Ask John Reynolds where he stands on bilingualism." The inference, according to a press report, was that I was not in favour of bilingualism and that I had not voted for it in this House. That was a low thing to do, a cheap shot for him to take. He should not have done it. I do not know why he would want to bring up that subject in western Canada. Bilingualism was not the issue in western Canada in the last election. The state of our economy was the issue, and leadership.

**An hon. Member:** May I ask a question?

**Mr. Reynolds:** If the hon. member will ask his question when I have finished, I will be glad to answer it. I was also bothered by the Saskatchewan Liberal Party displaying an advertisement which depicted chickens being burned. The ad said this was being done in the United States because of the price freeze. But the truth was that the chickens shown in the ad had been burned in Canada because they were diseased. I raise this matter because the Prime Minister's actions in the election with regard to the language issue made me mad. People in my riding said to me, "We did not think you had voted against the language bill; we thought you were in favour of bilingualism in Canada." I am. That is one program which we need in this country. If we are ever to solve the problem of bilingualism, the Prime Minister and all members of this House should convince the premiers of this country that we had better teach French in the nine provinces which do not teach French from kindergarten on.

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

**Mr. Reynolds:** Otherwise, we will never solve the problem of bilingualism in this country. We will not solve it by doing what we are now trying to do. We are trying to work from the top down, and it is not working. We have Quebec bringing in Bill 22, which has angered the people of British Columbia. We are doing our best in British Columbia to teach our children French. We do not think the people of Quebec should know only French, in a North American society of 250 million English-speaking people. In Quebec, English should be taught in French schools starting at kindergarten. As federal politicians, it is our responsibility to start at the bottom in this respect: let us start teaching French in the schools where such teaching belongs, so that in ten or 15 years the question of bilingualism will never again be raised in the House of Commons.

I have a few more things to say about British Columbia. This morning I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) why the British Columbia ferry system is not being subsidized by the federal government. The British Columbia ferry system is an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway. The Trans-Canada Highway Act says that the federal government will pay its fair share for the setting up of the Trans-Canada Highway and its maintenance. The minister said this was not being done because