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the official languages. And thirdly, to set out the powers and duties of federal institutions in this matter.

Madam Speaker, Bill C-72 is divided in 14 parts and I should like to quote from some of them which are entirely vital and essential to that bill. In Part I of Bill C-72, one clause appears as follows:

4.(1) English and French are the official languages of Parliament and everyone has the right to use either of those languages in any debates or proceedings of Parliament.

This seems to be taken as granted, but the members of the Committee on Official Languages were surprised to learn almost a year and a half ago, after having asked a legal adviser whether the House of Commons and the Senate were subjected to or covered by the Official Languages Act, that no, the House of Commons and the Senate were not covered under the Official Languages Act now in effect.

Therefore Bill 72 confirms that French and English are the official languages of Parliament, everyone having the right to use either one of them in the debates and proceedings of parliament. It is high time, as you will agree, that in 1988, such an established fact be recorded in a legal statute.

Further, Madam Speaker, we find Part III of the Bill dealing with the administration of justice where it is clearly stated:

13. English and French are the official languages of the courts, and either of those languages may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court.

14.(1) Every court has, in any proceedings before it, the duty, to ensure that any person giving evidence before it may be heard in the official language of his choice, and that in being so heard the person will not be placed at a disadvantage by not being heard in the other official language.

Those are very important provisions as far as the administration of justice is concerned.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, if we refer to Part IV dealing with communications with and services to the public, it is of tremendous importance for the Canadian public and for people dealing with federal services. This legislation does say the following:

20. Any member of the public in Canada has the right to communicate with and to receive available services from federal institutions in accordance with this Part.

21. Every federal institution has the duty to ensure that any member of the public can communicate with and obtain available services from its head or central office in either official language—

This concerns communications, Madam Speaker, and it is true of all the parts of this legislation which clearly shows that we were committed to make it a very clear and precise Bill.

Part V, which is a vital part of this legislation, deals with language of work. It clearly says this:

33. English and French are the languages of work in all federal institutions, and officers and employees of all federal institutions have the right to use either official language in accordance with this Part.

It is clear, Madam Speaker; it is now stated in a bill.

Part VI, Madam Speaker, deals with the participation of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians

38.(1) The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that (a) English-speaking Canadians and French-speaking Canadians, without regard to their ethnic origin or first language learned, have equal access to appointment and advancement in federal institutions; and

I think this is also a very important point in this legislation.

Then Part VII deals with the advancement of English and French. Madam Speaker, in a country whose identity is deeply rooted in both cultures and both languages, the advancement of English and French is absolutely vital, and it reads as follows:

40. The Government of Canada is committed to (a) enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development; and (b) fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

Madam Speaker, all the clauses, all the parts of this Bill relate to one aspect or another of our country's official languages.

The Commissioner of Official Languages must be delighted with Part IX of this Bill because it extends the duration of his tenure of office.

Finally, Part X of the bill deals with court remedy. This is also something entirely new, madam Speaker, and it is important to know that from now on, following the adoption of this Bill, any person who has made a complaint to the Commissioner will be able to institute proceedings before the Courts against Government authorities.

With this quick overview of the bill, Madam Speaker, I think I have demonstrated that it had become necessary, considering that we had been obliged to operate under a legislation which is quite outdated and archaic: we needed only to hear what was going on and the testimonies which were presented to the Committee on Official Languages to realize that we had to act.

In this connection, I feel compelled to mention the remarkable contribution made by the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin) who, over the past year or year and a half, has managed to give a new momentum to the Committee on Official Languages, together with the other Committee Members, including the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp) who took part in this debate this morning, the Honourable Member for Saint-Boniface (Mr. Duguay) who sought from the individuals, departments and organizations appearing before the committee suggestions for remedies, an other means of rectifying the situation, which is not easy, Madam Speaker, because some people having gained seniority through 15 years of leniency, it was almost impossible to impose bilingualism on them. I find solace, however, when I hear heads of Departments or Crown Corporations or Federal organizations declare that they will present us with plans to remedy the situation and that they will assume their responsibilities in the area of official languages.