

concept of the whole which we try to serve in our different ways.

I have quoted just one of several excerpts along the same line from the Prime Minister.

That is to suggest that a parliamentarian must put regional interests behind him when he comes here. That also suggests that a parliamentarian should leave these matters to provincial governments and that this is not the place to represent regional perspectives. That is to further suggest that a legislator cannot really be a good Quebecer, Nova Scotian, Ontarian or Albertan and a good Canadian at the same time, and that we must always choose. That seems to me to be René Lévesque's line, and I find it astonishing to hear it coming from the lips of the Prime Minister of Canada.

I trust that that distorted picture of the state of Canada today is not to be used as a pretext for the federal government's going on the political warpath at some future time against the provinces because that, I believe, would really be damaging to Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Will the honourable senator accept a question? In view of the recent admonition, as I understood it, from the Premier of Ontario to the federal government that it stay out of the Penetanguishene situation, could we have some particulars of the letter that is supposed to have been sent suggesting the entrenchment or the establishment of certain educational rights in Ontario? Do I understand that a letter was sent by the Premier of Ontario to the Prime Minister?

**Senator Murray:** I am sure it is a matter of public record. It was sent in September 1977 by the Premier of Ontario to the Prime Minister of Canada. I do not have the text with me, but I am sure it is available either from the Prime Minister's office or from the office of the Premier of Ontario. It is very much on the record as suggesting that we proceed at once to guarantee language of education in Ontario and in the other provinces.

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne:** Why can the premier not proceed in his own legislature at the moment?

**Senator Frith:** That is what I do not understand. "We should proceed" means who should proceed? Does it mean Ontario and the federal government should proceed on the question of language rights in Ontario?

**Senator Murray:** That the federal Parliament and the provincial legislatures should proceed to entrench the rights to education in either of the official languages across the country. That letter is on the record.

**Senator Frith:** Quite apart from the record, I am quite satisfied to have the honourable senator's recollection since he must have a clear recollection or he would not have referred to this matter in his speech. Is the suggestion, as he understands it, from Premier Davis that the federal government and Ontario should get together about entrenching language rights

[Senator Murray.]

in what—the federal Constitution, and giving jurisdiction over education and language rights to whom?

**Senator Murray:** No, no change of jurisdiction at all, but guaranteeing, in the Constitution, the right to education in either of the official languages across the country.

**Senator Frith:** Without any change of jurisdiction?

**Senator Murray:** No change.

**Senator Frith:** Therefore, jurisdiction for education would stay as it presently is, with the provinces, but that it would be entrenched in the Constitution in all of the provinces, and those rights would be guaranteed. Is that the position of Ontario?

**Senator Murray:** Yes, as I understand it, that is the position taken by the Premier of Ontario in a letter sent to the Prime Minister of Canada in September 1977.

**Senator Lamontagne:** On that basis, why is the Premier of Ontario not using his constitutional responsibilities and competence as they exist now to provide, through a bill in the Ontario legislature, rights for francophones in Ontario?

**Senator Murray:** Although it might not be in order, perhaps we could have a debate about the progress that has been made with regard to education in the province of Ontario and in some of the other provinces.

**Senator Roblin:** In Manitoba.

**Senator Murray:** And in Manitoba, as Senator Roblin suggests. Perhaps then we could discover where we have made progress, and where we seem to have been backing away from bilingualism instead of proceeding towards it.

**Senator Lamontagne:** He is not doing anything.

**Senator Murray:** Senator Lamontagne says that Premier Davis is not doing anything. That is an interesting accusation to leave on the record.

**Senator Lamontagne:** In terms of legislation.

**Senator Frith:** I should like to ask another question. I perhaps misunderstood, but I drew the inference that in some way the federal government is standing in the way of the effectiveness of the New Brunswick Official Languages Act. What I heard was that the Prime Minister was not taking into account the progress that has been made, and the indication was that someone was blocking the entrenchment or the effectiveness of the New Brunswick Official Languages Act. I did not understand what that meant.

**Senator Murray:** At least as far back as the Victoria Conference, and perhaps before that, the Province of New Brunswick has sought, effectively, to have those rights to the two official languages contained in its own Official Languages Act put in the form of constitutional guarantees. I did not suggest that the federal government had blocked that. I referred to the New Brunswick position, along with the progress that has been made elsewhere in the country, as an indication of the improvement in attitudes that has taken place in this country. I think a balanced résumé of the situation in