

National Arts Centre

Canadians. All that this bill seeks to do is to provide that every director on the board of the national arts centre shall be a Canadian.

I do not like losing my temper on a matter as important as this but I should like to say in conclusion that this type of discussion is pursued quite frequently. I have discussed this question in groups of 2, 3, 10 and 20. Usually a discussion of this nature starts in a friendly fashion but then gets down to the real thing, dividing this country.

What is separating this country are the callous politicians who use lack of education in certain parts of the country, politicians who use bigotry. As I go across this country I condemn English speaking politicians who use prejudice against the province of Quebec and French Canadians for political reasons. However, I suspect many French speaking Canadians are equally as guilty as many English speaking politicians in resorting to prejudice for short gain and temporary political advantage.

The history of Canada is punctuated with the exploits of French speaking Canadians. I do not have to reiterate for the benefit of the members of this house the contributions of such great people as Champlain, Cartier and Montcalm. However, I think it is time that French Canada shook off its inferiority complex and realized that there is a place in Canada for people of talent and ability, whether they be French, German, Jewish, Ukrainian or Irish.

• (5:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Chairman, I rise to disprove in a few words some of the entirely inaccurate assertions made a while ago by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire). According to him, the Prime Minister asserted that French speaking Canadians had been appointed to all commissions or crown corporations.

What the Prime Minister pointed out very clearly and explicitly is that, in the last three years, the policy advocated in the submitted amendment has been followed by the government. That is what he said and he indicated thereby the definite intention of the government to pursue the same course.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. If the President of the Privy Council was here, then he has put into my mouth words which I never uttered. I have never said that according to the Prime

Minister French Canadians had been appointed to all the crown corporations. I said this: the Prime Minister stated that his government must give due consideration to the bilingual element in Canada; after which I mentioned some crown corporations, to prove that it has not always been the case.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order. The member for Lapointe used the same text to name crown corporations founded 20 years ago which the Prime Minister used when he said that for three years now, the government had followed that policy of bilingualism in its appointments to crown corporations.

Mr. Favreau: In any event, figures and statistics clearly indicate not only that the government intends to implement this policy, but that it started doing so three years ago. The member for Lapointe said something interesting in this connection. He said that in the case of the corporation for Expo '67 all its members are bilingual, and this, mark you, expresses the aforementioned policy.

Mr. Grégoire: I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council to again quote me correctly I mentioned the majority of the members we met, we did not meet them all. That does not mean all the members of the corporation are bilingual. I should ask the President of the Privy Council to quote me correctly. I said the majority of the members of Expo that we met.

Mr. Favreau: The hon. member for Lapointe will not go as far as to deny having met certain of the members appointed by the federal government and yet those—he admitted so himself a while ago—meet the requirements that his amendment or sub-amendment seeks to legislate into the statute books. Besides, since 1963, five French speaking deputy ministers, five bilingual deputy ministers have been appointed by this government. I think one must at least recognize what statistics, what the actions of the government, clearly evidence: the policy which the right hon. Prime Minister wants to see implemented is already implemented, and will continue to be implemented under this government.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Chairman, several months ago, when the Prime Minister set up a Commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, millions of Canadians welcomed that initiative. Last April 6, when he introduced his policy on bilingualism within the public service, millions of Canadians also welcomed