

The Address—Mr. Dorion

It is patent that a different view altogether is taken of this subject in the province of Quebec from the view that is taken in the other provinces of Canada. Those who know the history of the province of Quebec understand the point of view of that province today and will know that Quebec regards this exclusive jurisdiction over education as something fundamental to the ethnic survival of that province and its people. This has been the view of the people of Quebec down through the years, that its jurisdiction over education is the sheet anchor of the survival of the culture, the language and the institutions of the province.

The minister then pledged solemnly to make all the necessary efforts in order to solve this difficulty arising from federal grants to universities.

Everybody is aware that thanks to the efforts which were made by the people of the province of Quebec, thanks to the goodwill and comprehension shown by our fellow-citizens of the other provinces, a formula has been worked out which safeguards the essential rights of the province of Quebec and of all the provinces in the field of education.

Mr. Speaker, I should also like to remind the house in this respect that the speech from the throne precisely contains the promise that this alternate formula, which has proved completely satisfactory to the province of Quebec, will be added in due time.

You will be asked to increase the federal grants to universities and make suitable provision in those cases where alternative arrangements are made for supplementary provincial grants in lieu of federal grants.

Moreover, it is known that the grants have been raised to \$2.00 per capita for each province. Thus, the government of the province of Quebec will receive the additional sum of \$2,500,000, while the exercise of its exclusive rights in the field of education will remain untouched and this excellent measure, contained in the pact of 1867, protected.

This is what prompted *La Presse*—obviously, all the credit had to be given to Mr. Lesage, as if we had nothing to do with this decision—to make the following comment in its January 27, 1962, issue:

From an exchange of correspondence—

The exchange is between the premier of Quebec and the Prime Minister of Canada.

—Quebec won its point inasmuch as at the request of Mr. Lesage, Ottawa agrees to an alternative solution in order not to force down the throat of the province federal grants which are unacceptable in the exclusively provincial field of education.

In other words, we who were particularly interested—I am speaking of interest in the noblest sense of the word—in seeing that that clause of the Union Act of 1867 remained intact had to wait for a Conservative government, for the present Prime Minister—who

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was smeared in the province of Quebec as anti-French Canadian—and his government to see the return of that right of which those provinces that wish to do so may well avail themselves.

Moreover, the party which held power for 22 years, just found out that Canada was a bi-ethnic and bi-cultural country and that we should preach and spread bilingualism at the federal administration level throughout the country. In this regard, we inherited a very heavy legacy, a legacy of stubborn silence and apathy if not of denial every time Ottawa was asked to give a practical illustration of the bilingual aspect of our country. We have had that practical illustration in the last four or five years, since a Conservative government took over. I shall give but a brief list because I do not want to be repetitious:

Introduction of simultaneous translation in the Senate and in the House of Commons; bilingual stationery and forms in several departments. And here I would urge the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Caron) to pay a visit to the printing bureau which comes under my department; he will see what goes on today and will be able to compare with what was going on under the Liberal administration.

Geographic maps and the Canada Atlas are now published in both languages. The *Canada Year Book* and that other important publication entitled *Canada 1961* were published for the first time last year simultaneously in both languages.

Signs on public buildings have become bilingual following a simple instruction by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Walker).

Finally, the printing of bilingual cheques.

In this regard, it was said: too little and too late. Not at all. Neither too little nor too late.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, if anything may have an educational value, it is precisely that small piece of paper which from now on will indicate everywhere from Vancouver to Newfoundland, that in this country, there are two distinctive groups, two basic groups which form the Canadian community and which have the same rights and the same privileges and which must enjoy the same treatment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the minister, but his time has expired.

Mr. Chevrier: Would the minister allow me a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Since the minister's time has expired, the unanimous consent of the house would be required before a question can be put to him.