

*The Constitution*

hours in particular, media are reporting that the proposed resolution before the House will in effect reopen the matter of freedom of choice for immigrants to Quebec. Let it then be clearly understood, there is no question of re-establishing freedom of choice for immigrants to Quebec.

The second matter on which I would like to call the attention of the House is the access to English schools for Canadian citizens whose first language is English. When we looked for a way to guarantee Francophones outside Quebec the right to send their children to French school, we had to ask ourselves how we were going to allow the English minority coming to Quebec or living in Quebec to send their children to the school of their choice, or English school. We had no choice, Mr. Speaker, we could not establish two classes of citizens in Canada, one class of citizens born in Canada and another class to whom citizenship is granted. We wanted to avoid the trap of creating two types of citizens—new citizens and Canadian-born ones. What we have in Canada is two official languages, what we have in Quebec is two types of schools, French schools and English schools. Therefore, in determining what groups of citizens must send their children to French school, we had no other choice than to use the criteria of first language. This means that a Canadian citizen coming to Quebec and whose mother tongue is Italian or Polish or Chilean or Spanish must send his children to French school. There is no question of freedom of choice for any other citizen whose first language is not English. They have the same status exactly as French-speaking citizens. Therefore, the only citizens with access to English school under this proposal are those whose first language is English.

*[Editor's Note: At this point, a child started crying in the gallery.]*

**Mr. Joyal:** I do not know if this new citizen's mother tongue is English or French, but if ever he has to be enrolled in a Quebec school and his parents' first language is not English, they will have to enroll him in a French school.

We were not free to choose a criterion such as that of Bill 101 which says that the school attended by the parents determines accessibility to the French or the English school, because if we had adopted that criterion we would have made it impossible for Francophones living outside Quebec who could not get their primary or secondary education in French to send their children to a French school. I would like to make that clear to Quebeckers, Mr. Speaker. There is no question of restoring free choice under the proposed resolution nor of opening English schools to immigrants. I insist on that point because during the past two days the media have published reports that do not take into account the contents of the resolution now under consideration.

● (2010)

Mr. Speaker, that is the first point I wanted to make. The second deals with an assessment of the demographic fluctua-

tions between Quebec and the remainder of Canada. This is quite important because if we establish that the mother tongue is the criterion of accessibility to English school, we should have some idea of the number of English-speaking Canadians coming within Quebec, as we must have some idea of the number of new English-speaking Canadians who settle down in Quebec. I said yesterday that the percentage of new English-speaking citizens settling in Quebec through immigration over the past two years had a tendency to come into line with their percentage in Quebec; in other words, the number of English-speaking citizens settling down in Quebec through immigration make up 20 per cent as a whole, which is equivalent generally to that part of the population in Quebec.

There is therefore a balance in the immigration process such that the proposed resolution will, without a doubt, change the balance or the numerical importance of Francophones in Quebec. Also, Mr. Speaker, we need only look at the migration of Quebeckers from Quebec. This phenomenon has been going on for 25 years, and I am not the one who came to that conclusion. Mr. Jacques Henripin, one of Quebec's most respected demographers, stated in a study published in January, 1980, that since the present economic situation is not quite in Quebec's favour the trend to leave the province has been stronger over the last 25 years than the trend to come to that province.

For the year 1977-1978, Mr. Henripin noted that there was a loss of 41,000 and 35,000 Quebeckers who left Quebec to establish themselves in other provinces. A breakdown of these migrants by language shows that 29 per cent were Francophones, 62 per cent were Anglophones and 9 per cent were from another language group. This clearly means that there are almost as many French-speaking Quebeckers who leave Quebec to settle elsewhere in Canada as there are new citizens whose mother tongue is English who come into Quebec.

Therefore the provisions of section 23 which grant French-speaking Canadians the right to send their children to French schools when they leave Quebec to live elsewhere in Canada ultimately protect French-speaking Quebeckers more than they bother English-speaking Canadians who would move to Quebec. The people of Quebec must know that because the shift of economic wealth within Canada, which is not an isolated phenomenon, has also been observed in the United States. Therefore the westward shift of wealth is followed by a shift in the population which affects as many Anglophones as Francophones. We must think about the rights of French-speaking Quebeckers to send their children to French schools where they leave Quebec and go live in other provinces.

Nothing in this resolution prevents Quebec from drafting its own policy enabling the government to ensure a fair balance between French-speaking and English-speaking groups as well as groups using other languages. And this is very important, Mr. Speaker, because if I believed that this bill would make it more difficult to maintain this balance without which Quebec