

The Address—Hon. J. Marchand

read the report of the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism—

Who is responsible? Mr. Speaker, I do not care to inquire into it. We were interested in correcting that situation step by step, and not by force just by saying: Now, gentlemen, we want to restore the balance. We wanted to proceed very gradually, in such a way that the French-speaking people in Ottawa, might feel at home.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The problem really existed. There was also the problem about Hull-Ottawa was developing very well. So much the better. I am the first to be proud of our beautiful capital city, which was erected for the main part with money coming from all the Canadian people, through the National Capital Commission. I am not jealous; I am happy to see that we possess a beautiful capital city. However, there was a problem: all the French-speaking Canadians were crowded in a neighbouring small town, across from Ottawa, by the name of Hull, and that town was not developing at all. One of our objectives was to try not to deprive Ottawa of its normal development, but to achieve in Hull things that would allow the French-speaking people also to be rather proud of their town.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1220)

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I will not tell you about the harassment I was subjected to because I was responsible for the National Capital Commission.

I expected that. Of course when I was elected to the House of Commons I did not think everybody would welcome us with open arms. It is obvious that some people do not understand but I was nevertheless happy because, all in all, I believe that the English-speaking people in Ottawa understood fairly well the contribution we wanted to make and they supported us. Not only did they support us, but they were very sympathetic.

We met with fanaticism, there is no doubt about that and it will happen again for, you see, it is in the nature of things not to understand everybody's problems, I know that. Besides, the same is true of each of our areas. Before I went to the Maritimes my idea of those provinces was entirely different from the one I have now. Now I can understand the people from those provinces, I can understand why some seem to push their demands more loudly than others, they have more serious problems than others. There are some outside Quebec who do not understand what is going on there and I am coming now to a more ticklish subject.

I will tell you quite simply about what happened during the last election campaign. War was declared upon us yesterday because of a film. In fact, it is the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) who put the finger on us—it seems that he is now the one who answers for the Progressive Conservative party in the province of Quebec. He did it because we made a film featuring four French-Canadian ministers. Now, two or three days ago, I met the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and told

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

him I would send him the film with a letter and even the sound track.

An hon. Member: That was four days ago.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, but anyway, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe said at six o'clock last night that he had not received it. Only the hon. member for Yukon—there never was any question of my sending that film to the member for Saint-Hyacinthe as I had said I would send it to the Progressive Conservative party. Would the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe by himself be the Progressive Conservative party?

Mr. Wagner: No.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No? Well, anyway, we produced a film to show what? First—

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, forgive me for interrupting on a question of privilege. I think it ought to be explained that the film was sent to me at my request, a request made in conversation with the minister. The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) did not know this until about 20 minutes ago.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, at first we have been represented as those French-Canadian swindlers in Ottawa who were in quest of power. People have said that it was shown only in the province of Quebec and in French.

In the first place and for the information of former "Mr. Justice", this is not true. On October 3 last, between 10 and 10:15 in the evening, this film was shown on the entire French network, that is in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Ontario. If it has been hidden, it must be far away.

Mr. Wagner: It was shown in French but not in English.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): It was indeed shown in French but not in English. I gave the hon. member a copy of it and it is up to him to have it translated. However, I will tell you why it was not shown in English.

Mr. Wagner: We are listening.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The hon. member has delivered his speech, he should now let me deliver mine.

I will mention the problem we had to face during the last election in the province of Quebec: the new Progressive Conservative star surely did not frighten us. In fact, it did not bother us a bit. Neither did the Social Credit Party which was, in our opinion, limited to some regions as far as the election was concerned and they nearly achieved what they intended to. I extend to them my congratulations for their success in the election.

In all event, what was our problem? It was to answer objections from another party which did not take part in the fight and said to everyone: These people do not represent anything in Ottawa. They are just pawns in the hands of the English-speaking people, they do not accomplish anything.