

**Mr. Lewis:** The resolution deals with a situation which I did not like, and since the hon. member was good enough to invite me perhaps I should point this out. What I did not like, and said so at that time, was that the public servants did not know which jobs were to be designated bilingual jobs. I said that the public servants should be consulted and the unions should be consulted, and those with long-term service in the public service should not be disadvantaged in the way of advancement and promotion.

It is always unfair, when you introduce a new policy which was not there when the person was first hired, to hit him with that policy to his disadvantage. I further asked in that speech that the long-service employee in the public service not be disadvantaged by the new policy. I am very happy to see that almost every one of those criticisms is met by the paragraphs of this resolution, although I am sure some people have some doubts about the last paragraph; that is, that in future all jobs may not be open to unilingual applicants. I would be dishonest if I did not say that this is possible.

The present employees in the public service are protected by the guidelines set out in the resolution, but it may well be that when people are new in the public service they will have to be rated either unilingually English or French, or rated bilingual, and they may have to make a decision at some point in their career, which civil servants did not have to do ten years ago. But I am ready to accept that because I do not know any way in which one could introduce this kind of policy and not make language one of the qualifications of the job for certain designated positions. Just as it is necessary for a stenographer to be able to take shorthand and to be able to type, so it is necessary for a person in certain designated positions to be able to speak one or other, or both languages as the case may be. That is a qualification of the job. I repeat what I said earlier, that even though this affects some it will be only a few—English-speaking applicants for jobs, the situation until now has been such that almost all French-speaking applicants for jobs were affected in this way, and that kind of inequality or imbalance must be adjusted in this country.

● (2110)

As the last point I want to make, I find it a fact in my travels across the country, particularly in the province of Quebec, that too many Quebecois do not even now regard Ottawa as their capital. I am not talking about separatism or separatists. I do not pay any attention to the kind of attitude the separatists may take, because I am very clear in rejection of their objects. I am talking about people who really believe in Canada but who simply do not feel or sense that Ottawa is their capital. They are oriented toward the city of Quebec rather than toward Ottawa as their capital.

Part of that is due to the kind of country we have, because to some extent this is true of every province in the country. To some extent it is true of many British Columbians—perhaps I should say some British Columbians—who regard Victoria as their capital rather than Ottawa. And there are people in Saskatchewan who regard Regina as their capital. Part of it is due to the nature of our country, as I have stated. It is due in part to the grievances every region of the country has against the centre, and the

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centre has been insensitive to the needs of the east and the west. I do not blame the people in these areas. The centre has been as insensitive about the needs of the east and the west in Canada as it has been of the need for linguistic equality. So you have the same kind of resentment.

But in addition to the normal thing you may find in English-speaking Canada about Ottawa, there is the additional dimension of language in Quebec. The trouble with many English-speaking Canadians is that when they visit the province of Quebec they visit Montreal. There is no doubt that a good many Montrealers speak both English and French. However, it is a fact that when you travel around the rest of the province of Quebec there are many—I am certain, a majority—of Quebecois who do not speak English. They may understand it a little, they may speak a few words, but they do not know the language sufficiently to be able to do a job of work in the English language in the public service.

I have met such people in other parts of Canada. I have met Canadian citizens who are French-speaking even in communities outside Quebec. Many of these people at the age of 14 or 15 are just beginning to learn the English language sufficiently to be able to handle it in a job in the public service. I think we ought to remember this. We are dealing, as was rightly said this afternoon, with a majority of English-speaking people who do not speak French, and a majority of French-speaking Canadians who do not speak English. All these people ought to have the same opportunity to serve the people of Canada and to serve in the language of choice of the people concerned.

Finally, there is among those who come from origins other than British or French undoubtedly a feeling of unease. I have found this very often. The newcomer to Canada, if he does not go to Montreal but, rather, to somewhere else in Canada assumes that Canada is a unilingual country. He hears only English spoken around him. His children attend an English language school and he assumes it is a unilingual country. He lives with that assumption, fairly and honestly, for a good many years. Then suddenly, in 1967 and 1968, he was confronted with the fact that it is not so, that although Ukrainian, German, Finnish, Swedish, Italian and Jewish are still languages which have unofficial status, French does have an official status equal to English. I think he is wrong in his reaction. I say this with respect. However, I am not surprised that he has this reaction; no one should be surprised, because all his life that is what he learned.

He may not have had that reaction if when he came to Canada he had gone to Montreal and heard both official languages spoken. But if a person had settled in Regina, Edmonton, Melville, Vancouver, Victoria or, for that matter, Orangeville or London, Ontario, he would probably never have heard a word of French spoken and it would never have occurred to him that it is on the same level as English. Then suddenly when he finds that this is so by law, it is natural for him to say, "What is wrong with my mother tongue?" This is what is happening in Canada. It is perfectly understandable. I say to my fellow Canadians who are immigrants, who came to this country as I did when I was 12 years of age, that if they are able to enjoy their original culture, if they are now able to draw upon public funds to assist them in retaining and in developing