

Debates gives the original wording of the speeches delivered. The speeches are printed in the language in which they were delivered. A day or two after, we have a second issue reproducing, in French, all the speeches which have been delivered. So then, the speeches delivered in English on the eve are translated and reproduced in the second edition, and the speeches delivered in French are so reproduced a second time, two days after; but English translation of the speeches delivered in French and which it is of interest of the members of this House not conversant with our language to know are, are published only seven or eight months later, in the Revised Edition. Consequently, in order to know what was said by members who spoke in French, the members who do not understand French are obliged to wait seven or eight months and read those speeches in the Revised Edition of the Debates, which volumes are kept rather as source of reference and for the purpose of consultation.

Such is the untoward state of things which my motion intends suppressing and I wish to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that even the public is aware of it. In an article which appeared in the issue of March 15 last under the heading: "French Speeches in Commons," the correspondent of "Le Devoir" advised the members to address the House in French; he granted that when debating important matters it might be better to speak English in order that every member might understand, but he went on:

Excepting important occurrences when we must condescend to use the language of the Semi-Canadians, what harm could there be in not being understood or even listened to on the other side of the Table? On the day following those concerned would always be at liberty to refer to the French translation.

Well, such is not the case, Mr. Speaker. The official translation of French speeches is not to be found in Hansard of the day after or the following day; as I said a moment ago, it is only published in the revised edition of Hansard, that is, six or seven months after the speeches have been delivered.

I also contend that the immediate translation of French speeches would be useful to the people because you have no doubt been, like me, in a position to notice that the English papers very often impute to us statements altogether different from those we uttered in the House of Commons. I had myself occasion to notice in the English papers reports of speeches delivered in French in the House and very often those reports conveyed a different meaning.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move this resolution which will be primarily in the interests of the people and an incentive to those among us who wish to speak French; it will prompt us to use that language freely, knowing that our remarks will be correctly translated the day after and that we shall not be in danger of seeing the statements delivered upon the floor of this House distorted by journalists who are inimical to us and friendly to the Administration.

Mr. J. E. S. E. d'ANJOU (Rimouski) (translation): Mr. Speaker, I must first congratulate my excellent friend from Chambly-Verchères (Mr. Archambault) for having submitted his resolution which I am most pleased to second. I do not intend to speak at any great length, particularly after the spirited remarks my hon. friend has just uttered. Moreover, the resolution speaks for itself. No one can deny that French is one of the two official languages of this country. Consequently, we avail ourselves of a prerogative when we urge the Government to have French speeches translated together with English speeches.

For my part, without unduly boasting, I may say that from the time I had the privilege of occupying a seat in this House, I have always been one of those who thought and still think that the French-speaking members should speak French in the House of Commons. Therefore this resolution is timely and the Government, I hope, will unhesitatingly pass it.

There is but one alternative. Both languages are official in this country; we are entitled to speak French and we avail ourselves of that privilege. But, unfortunately, as the hon. member from Chambly-Verchères said, the majority of the members on the right and some of our friends on the left do not understand French. Then, it is most important that speeches delivered in French should be translated into English the following day, so that our friends and the members on that side who do not understand that language may be acquainted with what we said the previous day.

Since we are upon that question, I intend seizing the opportunity to call the attention of the Government upon what goes on in the several branches of the administration. We notice every day in the newspapers that French has not the place it is entitled to. They refuse to deliver French forms; they even turn aside French correspondence. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is an abuse against which I feel bound to protest, and