

to the terms of reference for the proposed royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism.

In response to your request, we wish to advise that, while we are not opposed to such a study being undertaken, unless the terms of reference are clarified to make more explicit the objectives which it is hoped to achieve we have serious doubts as to its advisability and practical value.

To amplify, in the matter of biculturalism, if the objective is to encourage citizens of all racial and ethnic origins to make their maximum contribution to the development of one over-all Canadian culture embracing the best of all, we feel this would meet with widespread endorsement and support.

If, on the other hand, the objective is to give some form of official recognition to a dual English and French culture, we suggest that this is unrealistic and impracticable and we doubt that it would meet with any widespread public acceptance.

In the matter of bilingualism, if the objective is to encourage Canadian citizens to become fluent in two or more languages, certainly on the part of most Canadians this would be welcomed.

If the purpose is to extend recognition of French as an official language in areas and spheres beyond those in which it was guaranteed official status at the time of confederation, we feel that it would not meet with general public acceptance and the consequences, in our opinion, would impair rather than strengthen Canadian unity.

We offer these observations for your consideration in arriving at a final decision in the matter proposed in your communication.

Very sincerely yours,

E. C. Manning

Premier.

PREMIER'S OFFICE  
Prince Edward Island

May 28, 1963.

Right Honourable L. B. Pearson  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa, Canada

My dear Prime Minister:

I have your letter of May 15, regarding an inquiry with the provinces of Canada on bilingualism and biculturalism.

I have not had an opportunity of discussing this matter with other members of my cabinet, so I am not in a position to fully advise of their views regarding the most suitable approach to this important question.

Recognizing, however, that the decision of your government favors the formation of a

commission to conduct the studies indicated, I can assure you that this province will accept your proposal, on the understanding as expressed in your letter that any commitments or recommendations from this commission will not be binding on the government of our province.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. Shaw,

Premier.

Province of Manitoba

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
Winnipeg

May 31, 1963.

My dear Prime Minister:

My colleagues and I have studied with care the proposal outlined in your letter of May 15 to inquire into biculturalism and bilingualism in Canada by means of a royal commission.

May I say at once that this question requires full and serious attention by our people and that you may therefore be assured of the full co-operation of the government of Manitoba in the proposed investigation. Indeed I believe that this province may have a unique contribution to make in the search for a wholehearted consensus on national unity and cultural development because of our experience in integrating the contributions of many cultures into Manitoba's basic French-English cultural background.

In expressing agreement with the aim of the proposed royal commission I feel bound, however, to raise the question of whether the problem Canada faces today can be dealt with within these limits. The basic issue appears to me to go beyond the purely cultural relationships of Canadians, and may indeed embrace the intergovernmental framework of the nation, including its fiscal aspect. It would seem that this view has already been placed before your government by some at least of my fellow premiers, including the prime minister of Quebec.

I would hope, therefore, that the appointment of the royal commission would not delay a more fundamental examination of the question. This examination, I suggest, may best be considered by direct federal-provincial discussions, possibly along the lines of the meeting envisaged by your predecessor in his letter of February 4 last to provincial premiers. Manitoba would indeed be happy to join in the search for co-operative federalism, a phrase which well reflects our own policy of full co-operation in the working of our confederation.