

*Official Languages*

achieve our goal, but I believe the amendments proposed today by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner), particularly the new sub-clause 4 of clause 40, which refers to the Public Service Commission, will represent tremendous progress. In the words of the minister, this amendment will make it clearly obvious that promotion is to be made on merit and that this is the principal consideration in respect of any promotion in the civil service. Certainly what the minister said today has gone a long way toward dispelling any doubt in this regard.

● (5:00 p.m.)

The hon. member for Charlevoix touched on the presence of Canada at the United Nations. I was there only very briefly as an observer last November, but one of the things that impressed me deeply about the Canadian delegation was that our young diplomats were bilingual and were establishing friendships with the Francophone nations. It was a wonderful experience to see representatives of a country such as ours making new friends throughout the Francophone world concurrently with our use of the English language. In this we are spreading our bilingualism and biculturalism in a constructive manner. We are fusing a greater Canada and proving that we are a great country, a country that will play a greater role in world affairs as time goes by. We know that the future of our country is great, but it will be greater because of the tremendous spirit and drive behind this bill.

As an English speaking Canadian I am shocked and ashamed to think that in the past French Canadians have not had the opportunity we have had. This is a terrible injustice. We have gone a long way toward curing that injustice, but we do not believe that simply passing this bill will be an end of the matter. We will proceed to build a society equalled by none other elsewhere in the world.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to congratulate the government for introducing this bill recognizing the status of the official languages of Canada.

It should be noted, however, that the British North America Act already awarded us these rights and it is truly regrettable that during one hundred years, that is before 1962, we did not have in this parliament of Canada any members capable of demanding equal rights for us.

[Mr. Gibson.]

This afternoon, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) gave us some explanations concerning the amendments he is proposing. I hope they will not cause any harm to the Quebec people, especially if we were to judge them by the one he moved to clause 11 (3), and I quote:

That the French version of Bill C-120 be amended by striking out the words "tribunal du Canada" on line 16, page 7, and substituting therefore the words "tribunal au Canada".

So by simply replacing "du" by "au", it is implied that in Canada, as a result of both official languages being recognized, English and French will not have to be used in all courts in Canada.

Therefore, we advise the minister and the house that we will scrutinize all the amendments.

We have examined carefully Bill C-120 as submitted. We agree with it, but we will scrutinize all the amendments, because, as the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin) said earlier, people are wondering whether Canada will remain united or whether separatism will develop.

Separatism is not all bunkum; it is not window-dressing meant to impress other Canadians. People want action, and if justice is done to our people, Canada will continue on the right direction. In any event, I made that remark because, too often, we are faced with superficial bilingualism.

Earlier, we received notice of questions to be debated tonight at ten o'clock; this notice is perfectly bilingual. But as regards those to be discussed in the days to come, everything is in English. Then, I understand that we want in this parliament to give justice to our own members, and I hope that such small hitches which we want and hope to eliminate will be taken care of, so that we can feel at home, really at home, everywhere in Canada.

When I personally visited western Canada in 1959 and went up to Vancouver and recently, during a trip in April which took me into western Canada, as far as Victoria this time, I realized that in the West, especially beyond Winnipeg, French speaking people are few and far between except in the French minority groups who have made a tremendous effort to remain bilingual. Western Canadians have probably realized that to preserve their mother tongue they had to be unilingual. President Nixon and General de Gaulle understand this, because when they get together they talk in their mother tongue and use interpreters to be understood.