

Finally, in relation to languages other than English or French, the bill does not diminish any rights which Canadians may enjoy by law or custom. It does not, for example, affect the right of non-French-speaking or non-English-speaking defendants in criminal proceedings to testify in their own languages and to obtain court interpreters.

When the bill is placed before the House, I propose to discuss its objectives and its main provisions in greater detail. I shall say no more about it at this time except to commend it to the earnest attention of Honourable Members and also of the general public of Canada.

I believe that there will be widespread agreement among members and their constituents in all parts of Canada that this bill can be of the greatest importance in promoting national unity.

S/A