

will be a special status within federal departments and different levels of bilingualism within departments, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence this question. In view of the present complement of 10 per cent bilingual personnel in the officer class and approximately 20 per cent in the non-commissioned class, will the attainment of percentages of bilingualism of 40 per cent and 35 per cent by 1976 in those classes and 60 per cent and 55 per cent by 1980 be achieved by freezing recruitment in the Anglophone area and stimulating recruitment in the Francophone area?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had read the document in full he would have noted there is a very extensive section devoted to the acceleration of language training for both language groups. Perhaps I might indicate to him that the dates set forth are in effect target dates, that the principle still applies that no one not qualified will be promoted, and that, indeed, the overriding factor of importance is the effectiveness of the force. If it should be found that effectiveness would be impaired by these target dates, of course they would have to be moved along. Having said that, I emphasize that we will make every effort to give effective language training to every member of the department who wishes to take it.

ARMED FORCES POLICY—EFFECT ON PROMOTION OF  
ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence if this policy is part of a move to reduce the numbers in the forces by discriminating against promotion so far as English-speaking personnel are concerned, officers and NCO's who have not been brought up to speak French, do not find it possible to do so, and therefore in effect will be forced to retire or stay at the same ranks they have now for the rest of their service?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I would think no one approaching this question of bilingualism either in the forces or elsewhere could regard the proposals set out as representing any form of discrimination whatsoever. They apply to both language groups.

[Translation]

APPLICATION OF ARMED FORCES POLICY TO FRANCO-  
PHONE PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT CANADA

**Mr. Louis Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence.

I have not read the document in question. Do those changes apply to all French-speaking Canadians, that is to those who do not necessarily live in the province of Quebec?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, they apply to all the

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Armed forces, throughout Canada. We intend to make certain changes with regard to the Francophones in Edmonton, for instance, to give them the opportunity to speak their mother tongue in Edmonton and elsewhere.

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Joliette wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. La Salle:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the hon. minister whether this new policy will from now on enable the whole population of Quebec to hear command given in French in the army?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, allow me to assure the hon. member and this House that there really is nothing new with this policy. It had been suggested by my predecessor. The idea is to make sure that in and outside the province of Quebec, where French-speaking divisions are concerned, all commands will be given in French and all the business of the units will be conducted in this language.

[English]

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I would like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether the aims and objectives of the Canadian defence forces are to protect the security of the nation or to become a cultural pool for Canadians?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, may I point out to the hon. member that certain French-speaking units, particularly those based at Valcartier, protected the security of Canada very well last October and November—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):**—and the policy of bilingualism put forward here is to assure that that same loyalty and opportunity will exist in the forces in the future.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I would think the hon. member for Calgary South would have something to say about that. He has to fight the next election.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder if we might change the subject now. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Go and say that in Calgary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.