

*Government Orders*

That brings me to the second point about leadership. Here I think is where a lot of us have failed this country quite badly. Many of us have forgotten that we have to educate people as to why we are doing certain things in this country, why we have passed certain laws, why we have created certain institutions. For example, in the province of Ontario, and I am not going to be critical at all of my Ontario colleagues in the provincial Legislature or the Premier of Ontario, but politicians in all three parties should do more to explain what Bill 8 is all about.

From my understanding, and I am not an Ontarian, Bill 8 provides French language services at the provincial level only where numbers warrant. In other words, where 10 per cent of the population is of the Franco-phone expression or if there are 5,000 Francophones in one community there will be certain French language services for those people in places like Sudbury, Hawkesbury, or Nickel Belt or the city of Windsor, the city of Ottawa and so on.

It seems to me that some of the opposition to what is happening in Ontario is there because certain politicians have not played a leadership role in explaining what Bill 8 is all about, or in explaining what official bilingualism at the federal level is all about. Some people are in opposition to that today because they do not have the information that they should have about their country its laws or its institutions.

Often western Canadians ask me why I support bilingualism. They say, "When my kids or grandchildren grow up they will have to speak French to have any federal job here in Saskatchewan or Alberta or Manitoba." Little do they realize that very few jobs in the federal Public Service in western Canada are designated bilingual. People do not realize that because we have failed collectively to do our job in educating the people of this country.

One of the consequences is that some people have a fear of what they think is going to happen. Let me tell the Prime Minister that one of the best speeches I have heard in this House was one of his back in September or October of 1983. He was then Leader of the Opposition and he spoke on the question of Francophone rights in the province of Manitoba. I was proud of him as the Leader of Opposition at that particular time for having had the courage to stand up at a very sensitive time in our history and speak out in favour of Francophone

rights in the province of Manitoba, rights that Premier Pawley, who was the leader of the government from our party in Manitoba, was attempting to negotiate at that time.

I remember the Prime Minister saying then—and I have not had a chance to reread his speech so I hope it is not out of context—that we should not condemn most of the people who were in opposition to the rights that Premier Pawley was trying to give to franco-Manitobans that were theirs because of a constitutional agreement many years ago. I remember the Prime Minister saying that we should not condemn those people, that many of them were fearful and did not understand the situation, that what we should try to do is educate them about why this had to be done.

I do not rise today and say that all people in Sault Ste. Marie are racists or bigots. They are not racists or bigots. I do not rise here and say that everybody in Thunder Bay, because of the resolution passed, are racists and bigots. They are not racists or bigots.

[*Translation*]

And that is exactly the same thing in Quebec, Mr. Speaker. I know a great many Quebecers who are against the development of the English language in that province. But most Quebecers are not racists, Mr. Speaker.

• (1650)

[*English*]

But at the same time, I also do not hesitate to condemn some of those people who are intentionally trying to stir up trouble in this country, who are anti-French, who are anti-Indian, who are anti-English, and some of them circulate petitions and try to raise fears. When we run across those people we should call a spade a spade and condemn them.

We are very lucky in Canada that we do have two official languages. The English language and the French language are the two greatest languages in the world. I think that we should celebrate that fact. It should be a fact that unites this country and not tears this country apart.

It is part of the richness of Canada. It is part of what we are blessed with as a nation. Most Canadians who have a sense of fairness and justice agree with that vision of Canada, that we are indeed very fortunate and indeed very aware.