

*Official Languages*

determination of the question of whether or not bilingual districts should be set up in particular areas. I wish to remind the house at this stage that according to the report of the B and B commission eight of the provinces of Canada can have within them bilingual districts: parts of Ontario, parts of New Brunswick, parts of Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and possibly one district in Alberta. So that even today practically every province of Canada can be affected by the decision of the advisory board. This is why we say that in arriving at a decision as important as this one every province of Canada and the Yukon and the Northwest Territories should be represented on that board.

I agree that today there are two provinces—perhaps Newfoundland is a very good example—where there would not be a bilingual district, according to the provisions of this bill. But let us not forget that by reason of the mobility of the population we do not know whether in five or even less years' time Newfoundland may not also qualify as a province in which bilingual districts may be set up. Tremendous expansion is taking place nowadays in the Labrador area. It is possible that French speaking people from Quebec will see fit to move there. So Newfoundland may be affected by this bill at some time in the future even if it is not affected by it today.

● (3:30 p.m.)

We contend that in the interest of fairness every province should be represented on this board. I know it will be argued that it is sufficient to allow representation to regions of Canada. The bill now says the board shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than ten members. It does not even say that every region must be represented. I do not think this is satisfactory in the case of a board which will perform so important a function.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) has stated that the proper functioning of this legislation will depend to a great extent upon the co-operation of the provinces. I agree. I hope this plan will function and I hope the provinces will co-operate. Indeed, I am confident we shall obtain co-operation from them. We seriously suggest that as a means of obtaining this co-operation every province should be represented on the advisory board.

It may be objected, as I mentioned earlier, that there are provinces which will have no

[Mr. McQuaid.]

bilingual districts, and that for this reason there is no need for them to be represented. It has even been suggested in committee that such provinces might attempt to boycott the idea of bilingual districts. I dismiss this suggestion as irresponsible. I am confident that the provinces are interested in the principle underlying this bill and that they will not attempt to boycott the setting up of a bilingual district if one were contemplated in accordance with requirements of the legislation.

We need the co-operation of all the provinces, and one of the best ways of obtaining it would be to make sure that every province is represented on the advisory board, the board which will decide whether or not a district shall be a bilingual district. The board will reach a decision of this kind presumably after it has conducted public hearings. What could possibly be wrong about requesting that every province should be represented on this board?

Acceptance of this proposition would not result in an unwieldy board. After all, a board with ten or 12 members is not an unwieldy body; much larger boards have been set up under parliamentary rules and are doing an effective job. Indeed, far from making the board unwieldy we would be making it participatory because every province would be represented, and this is as it should be.

I do not propose to speak at further length. I shall close simply by recommending the amendment we are proposing.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member put forward a similar amendment before the special committee which studied this bill. After a good deal of discussion, it was not adopted. The government feels there was a thorough examination—and a fair examination—of this bill by the special committee.

Twenty-nine amendments to my count were accepted by the committee. Admittedly some were introduced by myself. Between 10 and 15 were introduced from the government side, five or six at least were introduced on behalf of his party by the hon. member who has just spoken, and the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) was responsible for the others.

We intend to take the position at this stage of backing the committee report. We feel that if the committee system is to expand and prosper, and if the effectiveness of the role of