

—“It is a fallacy to consider a language and a culture as synonymous. Many Francophones are fully anglicized or Americanized — a well known phenomenon in the business world.”

— Discussing the linguistic characteristics of bilingual and unilingual states, the commission said that if everyone becomes bilingual, one of the languages becomes superfluous. Some states give special rights to minority languages, recognizing those people with different aspirations from the rest of the population: the Welsh in the United Kingdom, Romanche in Switzerland, Maori in New Zealand, Arabic in Israel, and the many languages of the USSR. It discussed the condition of other states which give official status to two or more national languages, trying to provide public functions in both or each, regionally or nationally: French and Dutch in Belgium, Finnish and Swedish in Finland; Czech and Slovak in Czechoslovakia; German, French, and Italian in Switzerland; Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian in Yugoslavia (with special regional status to nine others) and other cases.

—“Whenever a bilingual state preserves the integrity of its language groups, the tensions that might arise are neutralized to the extent that each of the groups within the state has a sense of cultural security. . . . The more vulnerable the minority language, the more guarantees given to those people.” The latter, the Commission said, may be a point for Canada.

— It called for a stop to the small talk: “The equal partnership between the two founding races, ‘le principe de l’égalité entre les deux peuples,’ takes priority over all historical and legal considerations, regardless of how interesting they may be.”

#### [TWO CONCEPTS OF BILINGUALISM]

In June, 1965, the Civil Service Commission said linguistic qualifications must be mentioned in advertising for all competitive posts, and early in 1966, after ninety-nine years of confederation, it said knowledge of both languages would be

## Errata

In the primer issue (Volume Three, Number One), *Canada Today/D’Aujourd’hui* overlooked including the Rt. Hon. Louis St-Laurent among the listing of Liberal Prime Ministers on page four. He was, in fact, Prime Minister from 1948 to 1957, and served twice as Acting Prime Minister.

He recently celebrated his 90th birthday and currently lives in Quebec City, Quebec.

“an additional asset” in applying for posts where there were substantial proportions of Anglophones and Francophones.

This and similar efforts would not in themselves suffice, the Commission said. “It is not enough to tell public servants that they may speak French if they wish; the whole milieu will have to be changed if the Public Service is to become a bilingual institution. At present, when a Francophone comes to work in a setting where English has always been the only language of work, he faces many difficulties and frustrations. He may find that there is no typewriter with French accents; the service personnel are likely to speak only English; most documents in circulation and publications in the library will probably be in English; and co-workers will almost all be unilingual Anglophones. Clearly, it will take more than a new Public Service Commission regulation to make Francophones feel at home in the federal government. It is not surprising that the difficulties persist, despite many efforts to improve the situation.”

Prime Minister Pearson said the government expected that a climate would be created where public servants from both language groups, appreciating one another and applying their respective cultural values, could work together. The word “climate” was considered significant. “For the first time governmental language policy took account of the two cultures,” the B & B report said. “However, the public service did not follow up on the invitation to create a French-speaking milieu, and the reforms called for were oriented towards creating bilingual individuals.”

That was what had always been thought of as a bilingual public service, and that was what the royal commission thought was wrong with all past attempts. No Canadian government had ever tried to make itself *bicultural*. Your traditional English-Scot Canadian, not known for social adventure, has always thought that one language was good enough for any man or institution.

The English-speaking Canadian was put on the spot because past efforts have strived for equal command of two languages. Such equilingualism is very rare, and, in any event, unnecessary for the creation of a bilingual institution, the Commission said. But emphasis on its supposed value had retarded research in the field.

The Commission said: “Indeed, the present development of bilingualism and biculturalism in the public service is typified by the present policy of the federal administration on (such) matters. That policy envisages the general use of language training to encourage bilingualism and the diffusion of bilingualism throughout the organization (so that), in effect, each individual *continued on page ten*