

*Financing of Bilingualism Programs*

[English]

I might add that the position we have advanced is in line with the process undertaken earlier in respect of Book I of the royal commission report, particularly the Official Languages Act which was adopted by Parliament last summer. The proposals we have advanced involve acceptance by the federal government of the principles underlying those recommendations in Book II which were addressed by the Royal Commission specifically to the federal government. They look forward to a program which would provide for federal co-operation with the provinces in greatly expanded activities in the field of minority language education and second language learning.

I am sure hon. members realize that the B and B recommendations concerning other minority groups have not yet been received.

[Translation]

We fully recognize that much of the substance of the recommendations of Book II of the Royal Commission Report falls more in the provincial field of responsibility than that of the federal government. At the same time, we consider that there is a national dimension to the problem. We believe that this latter aspect involves the development and encouragement of programs which will advance and encourage the use of the two official languages across the country.

Volume II of the Royal Commission Report contains 12 recommendations respecting aid to minority language schools, teacher-training, including the establishment of new teacher-training institutions; university education, including grants to minority-language students to study outside their own province, grants to minority-language universities, and a one-year transfer program for students specializing in the second official language; and finally the establishment of a Language Research Council. Other details of these programs are to be found in the statement I have made this morning.

● (2:10 p.m.)

[English]

Essentially, these programs would involve two related priorities; first, measures undertaken in co-operation with the provinces to ensure that the official language minorities will enjoy equal rights with the majority so far as access to education in their own language is concerned; second, the encouragement of second-language learning, to meet a desire expressed by an increasing number of

[Mr. Pelletier.]

Canadians who wish to be competent in both of Canada's official languages.

As a government, we accept both these priorities and we are prepared to provide for federal financial participation in support of them. Action in this field of course calls for provincial participation as well, because proposals relating to programs and institutions in the field of education are in the provincial domain. Accordingly, in order to achieve any substantial progress in this field, provincial initiative will be required as well as a federal willingness to participate.

[Translation]

The question of financing is of course of the first importance. Given the financial restraints which are operative today, no government can think in terms of providing unlimited resources or establishing open-ended programs even in fields of the highest priority. We have therefore felt it necessary to inform the provinces that it will be necessary to place at least rough limits on the amounts which the federal government can contribute to this program.

Our proposals will require detailed discussion with the provincial authorities, who have of course not yet had an opportunity to study or comment on them. My purpose in speaking today is to ensure that the House is informed without delay of the government's position on this important matter. I would hope, so far as our provincial colleagues are concerned, that what we have begun this morning is a useful series of consultations which will eventually result in arrangements satisfactory to all concerned.

[English]

With the consent of the House, Mr. Speaker, I should like to table the proposals that were put to the provinces this morning which, if the House agrees, might be appended to and printed in today's *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Editor's Note: For text of proposals, see appendix.]

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, while we welcome the statement by the minister in his desire to inform Parliament, we have certain reservations and cautions about what appears to be a substantial initiative by the federal government in the field of education. Federal interference in the field of education has, in the past, been the