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# Bilingualism program gross injustice to English

... This week Forum writers discuss bilingualism. Our contributors are Maple Leaf News, the newsletter of the Dominion of Canada English Speaking Association, and Normand Hache, Director of Activities Jeunesse of the Societe Nationale des Acadiens. (Maple Leaf News was sent to us by Raymond Reid, an executive member of the club, in response to our request for a submission on bilingualism.) . The English Speaking Association argues that it is not fair

for "97 percent of the country to change for the sake of the other three percent." Hache, on the other hand, believes bilingualism is a right, and that as long as "Hurley. Jones, Hatfield and McGuigan, etc. are in power we shall have to fight for our rights."

. Let's hear your view. After you ve misneu reaung, write a letter to Comments, The Brunswickan, Room 35 SUB. Use the campus mail - its free.

The latest figures released by Statistics Canada point a bony finger towards the Federal Governments bilingualism program.

Provinces, there are roughly 1,760,000 English people, and only 266,000 French. The figures are even worse when New Brunswick, with its French populice, is excluded. Then, it becomes 1,380,000 English, versus a mere 50,000 French.

With the sole exception of Quebec and New Brunswick, the picture is the same throughout Canada.

As a matter of fact, in Ontario, Italians almost outnumber the French. Don't they have a "right to their language?"

Ignoring the gross injustice being done to the English-speaking population of Canada, the plain

the province of Quebec, with a

our language. It also hurts

Moncton as a whole, for we all know what kind of reputation

Moncton has throughout Canada.

the school board, Mr. Hurley

opposes the fact that a french

name be given to a french school

(that's right, just a school name).

In Quebec, these rights were being

observed even before the adoption

of the Official Languages Act.

(Perhaps it is about time we

parachuted Mr. Hurley to Quebec

for a few years so that he might

realize what he is doing to the

At the same time, while the city

of Montreal is offering a perfectly

french population.)

How can I finance

my studies?

In Fredericton, the president of

fact of the matter is that the bilingualism program is far too costly for the Canadian taxpayer to bear.

One editorial writer has esti-For example, in the Atlantic mated the translation of every word spoken or written in the government, cost the taxpayers approximately \$1 per word--and everyone knows how long-winded politicians are

Is it fair to ask 97 per cent of the country to change for the sake of the other 3 per cent?

### The answer is a resounding NO.

.There are some places, such as Quebec, where the idea of bilingualism becomes fairly sound. But in the interests of national unity and strength, the answer is for Canada to become a unilingual country.

Every great nation on earth is a

have the consideration to have a

unilingual one (Britain, France, Germany, U.S., Japan. China). Dialects may appear, but the basic language is one.

As long as Canadians bicker over language and ignore the real problems facing our country, we will be relegated to the position of a second or third class power.

Consider the fact that a relatively small proportion of the world's population speaks English as a "native language", and yet, it is the principal of world commerce. English-speaking people are not the only prosperous people in the world, but where English goes, there tends to be a greater degree of prosperity. Why?

Perhaps because of the second point about English as an international language.

Sociologists and economic historians have drawn relationships between commercial prosperity, the spread of the English Language, English-speaking attitudes towards individual freedoms, and the connections made have not always been expressed in flattering terms, but they have been made, and well-substantiated. Therefore, we quote from the Encyclopedia Britannica (1958 edition, Vol. 8, page 555):

"Certainly there can be little doubt of the outstanding importance of English among the languages of the world. It is not the one used by the greatest number of speakers, an honour that belongs to the Kuo-yu dialect of China ...spoken by about 280,000,000 people. But English has more than 200,000,000 native speakers and is far more widespread than Chinese.

It is spoken throughout the continent of North America, in the British Isles, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and is also the most important of the languages of colonization in Asia, Africa and Oceania. In addition, it is the language of commerce, and the second language of many countries which formerly had French or German in that position."

## Acadian minority demand legitimate rights

#### **Bv NORMAND HACHE**

History teaches us that democracy has always been the rule of the majority. It also teaches us, however, that the rights of minorities must be observed and rejspected. It is thus normal that all structured minorities, for example the Acadian minority, can and must demand their very legitimate rights.

In order to support these demands, the Canadian Parliament enacted a few years ago a law pertaining to bilingualism and the official languages. The province of New Brunswick was not far behind in proclaiming its own Official Languages Act. These laws support our right to demand services in the french language within the public services. This same right is at the same time given to the English minority in the province of Quebec

The province of New Brunswick was declared a bilingual district by the federal government. Lately, we have been hearing about a crisis inside this bilingual district. We

can ask ourselves, "Does this crisis really exist?" Before attempting to give some answers to this question, I would like to bring to light some facts on the situation.

I believe that the Acadian population is becoming more and more conscious of the fact that it is important for them to live with the french language.

Example 1. A French university and three

affiliated colleges.

2. AFrenchteachers' college. 3. Certain pressures for bilingualism; especially in Moncton.

4. An Acadian political party "Le Parti Acadien", etc.

I also believe that it is now impossible to have a second deportation of Acadians.

Is it a right or a privilege to be served in our own language?

I firmly believe that it is a right. strongly favour institutional bilingualism and I maintain it is not the fault of the francophones if this institutional bilingualism is still not in force in our province. In population which is about 13.1 bilingual receptionist at the percent english-speaking, we have **Centennial Building in Fredericton** but Mr. Hatfield still maintains he a bilingual city council in Montreal (even the city hall dedication is in favour of bilingualism. plaque is bilingual). Now lets look at Moncton, where approximately 38 percent of the population is french-speaking, we find that it is next to impossible to be served in

Personally, I feel that as long as we have people such as Hurley, Jones, Hatfield, McGuigan, etc.. we shall have to fight for our rights. I am completely opposed to violence, but I warn that unless we want the same situation in New Brunswick as in Northern Ireland, we, the youth, had better have a

more open spirit and a respect for the other person as a human being and especially we must not be afraid of losing certain powers and authority because of what we believe in.

Believe me, the Acadians are people with whom it is possible to communicate and we dream of the day when we can live side by side with our English friend and have mutual respect, just as they do in Switzerland with four languages. bilingual service, we do not even Fantastic!

### Forum unattended

The open Forum with Dean of Students Frank Wilson, scheduled for Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., was unattended by Dean Wilson and students alike.

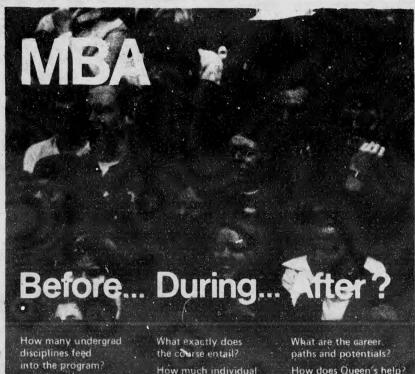
Held up during a business trip to Saint John, Dean Wilson arrived late, only to find an empty room; typifying, according to Roy Neale, general student apathy.

When questioned about the lack of response, Dean Wilson indicated that he had more or less expected this, but that he was pleased with the amount of student contact he was making through frequent meetings with students in his office.

At a meeting on December 13, 1972, the Arts Council passed a motion to permit students to attend the Arts Council meetings as observers on the same basis as they attend Senate meetings.

From now on notices of meetings and agendas will be posted well in advance on the glass-fronted bulletin board beside the Dean of Arts' office on the ground floor of Tilley Hall. Interested students should keep in touch through this board, for it will constitute the formal link between the Arts Board and its students on matters of Arts. Council business.

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