

*Official Languages*

**Mr. Horner:** Ask me that sometime when I have the floor, and I will answer it.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Crowfoot has just demonstrated his inconsistency when he said that he voted against the principle of the bill on second reading, and he would not state that he is actually against the principle of the bill. So he claims to be in favour of the bill, but in fact he is against it.

For 200 years, we have been witnessing those demonstrations of intentions and good will. Today, we are against that because we wish to live according to reality. It is for that reason that I commend the minister who introduced this bill so that once and for all everything will be done openly and the English-speaking group who are asking themselves what Quebec wants will have to take a stand.

What Quebec wants, we know it, is justice pure and simple. Quebec wants implementation of the policy it has been applying in favour of minorities for the past 200 years.

I feel the bill precisely confirms this policy and that is why I certainly cannot approve the amendment moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), who states that it can result in discrimination against unilinguals within the Public Service. For instance, when he says: "If I were a French-speaking unilingual", I can give him an immediate reply: "If you were a French-speaking unilingual, you would never become a public servant because, in the past 200 years, non-bilingual French Canadians have never been admitted to the Public Service." That is the reply.

It is suggested today that by means of this bill that irregular situation prevailing through Canada must be corrected. I am not speaking of a small area even located in the province of Quebec. Let us see what goes on in the remotest areas. In my riding, where there only 2 per cent English-speaking people, all official publications are issued in both languages. The same cannot be said about the western provinces and that is why we want bilingualism to be respected throughout Canada. The amendment reads as follows:

Notwithstanding anything in this act, no person shall be refused employment or promotion within the Public Service of Canada on grounds alone of inadequate acquaintance with either of the official languages mentioned in this act—

If we were to accept this amendment, we might just as well totally reject the bill,

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because by accepting the amendment you destroy all the effect of the bill.

I go on quoting:

—provided that the applicant has declared his intention and willingness to learn the other official language—

Imagine the terrific joke of the hon. member for Crowfoot! We have been living on good intentions for the past 200 years. We are told that the English-speaking Canadians are well-meaning. Possibly, but they have never shown any good will. They are well-meaning but they have never made up their minds.

[*English*]

**Mr. Horner:** Would the hon. member permit a question? In respect of his belief as to the principle of the bill, does he feel that a person has to be bilingual before he can get a job or a promotion in the civil service?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** In the future, Mr. Speaker, when the bill has been passed, it will be absolutely necessary for an individual to be bilingual. This has been going on for a hundred years. An individual will have to be bilingual to enter the public service.

I think this is not asking too much because it has been asked of us for 200 years—

[*English*]

**Mr. Horner:** May I ask the hon. member another question on that very point? After listening to the debate does he think that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) agrees with the principle he has just enunciated?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton)** Oh, come on, Jack!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** I refer to the bilingual districts. I know that there are small English-speaking villages where there is not one French Canadian, but I refer to the public service here in Ottawa and to all the bilingual districts. We must use our judgment and I think that if the member for Crowfoot had used his, he would not have presented such an argumentative amendment. May I point out that it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the house took recess.