

Supply—Secretary of State

[*English*]

Mr. Churchill: Thank you very much. Do you mind if I leave now?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to see that the member for Winnipeg South Centre has gone to enrol in a French course. I shall be glad to help him if he needs it.

Mr. Chairman, the Secretary of State could certainly allow the member for Winnipeg South Centre to use the existing language laboratories.

This is, first of all, a political and social question, for Canada is officially recognized as a bilingual country by virtue of its constitution. That is the first and basic reason.

But for those who seem to object to that, I will recall that there is moreover a question of culture involved. The individual who can command two languages will unavoidably enjoy two cultures. That is obvious, Mr. Chairman. Those who wish to learn more, to know more, should do it for the sake of culture, for their self-improvement. It goes without saying that every human being tries to learn as much as possible, tries to add as much as he can to his personal background. Two cultures are definitely better than only one.

In the light of those facts, Mr. Chairman, I believe we must support the civil service's proposal to allot 10 extra points to those who are bilingual when they apply for a job. It was set at 10 per cent and I accept that percentage.

However, I would ask to consider also a supplementary bonus for those who are already on the job, during the period of transition, so that that period might not be too long. Then, you would see many officials register for French or English courses, as the case might be, with a view to learning the other official language of our country.

Mr. Chairman, those are the few remarks I wanted to make.

I think the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) will have noticed that I was not too fanatical in my ideas today. Those ideas are logical. We are not asking to take anything away from anyone, but merely asking to recognize the merit and competence of those who can speak the two languages, which are recognized by the constitution as the official languages of Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Cantelon: Mr. Chairman, I intend to change the subject because I am sure it is

[Mr. Grégoire.]

impossible to pour oil on these troubled waters. If I did, I am quite certain the head of the hon. member for Lapointe would come bobbling through, spouting words. I should like to say a few words about a matter very close to the hearts of my constituents, a matter which I have mentioned to the minister on another occasion, namely, C.B.C. coverage for Saskatoon—a new C.B.C. station for Saskatoon.

To refresh the minister's memory I wish to tell her my constituency receives only one type of program and we are very anxious to have two. If a C.B.C. station can be put into Saskatoon, then we expect we would be able to have a C.T.V. program, as well as a C.B.C. program.

In this connection there is another matter I should like to mention. We have a satellite station at a place called Pivot, which is served from Medicine Hat, and over the past few months a great deal of technical difficulty has arisen. We hope the minister will use her good offices to see that an improvement is made to the technical efficiency of this station.

While talking on this subject, I think it would be a good time to mention the CBOT radio station in Ottawa. Before coming here, from what I expect might be called a remote area, I was accustomed to having very good radio reception. In common with many hon. members, I enjoyed good music and good commentaries, much of which are to be found on the C.B.C. network. Unfortunately, CBOT is not a good station. It is almost impossible to get good music from it, and clearcut words from the commentators who broadcast over it. I do not know whether the minister can do anything about this but, if she can, I think something should be done to see that the technical competency of this station is improved. It is a disgrace to the capital of our country.

Much of the C.B.C. programming in recent weeks has, in my opinion, improved greatly. We no longer get those far out programs, if we can call them that, produced by the quasi-intellectuals among the programming group in the C.B.C. At least we have not had any in recent weeks. I think in the past they were attempting to follow the ancient Greek tragedies. Unfortunately, all they succeeded in doing was omitting the drama involved in those tragedies and giving the dirt. This is indefensible in a network which comes into the homes of everybody.