

the hon. gentleman had not read the bill. Well, I have read it several times. I have a marked copy of it with certain words underlined, and there are in the bill many points which I am sure have not had due consideration by the cabinet. I will not take them up in detail, because the subject will be studied in committee unless, as I hope, the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Ottawa carries. For instance, in section 3 there appears these words: "for all departments of the public service." This means, just as I have said, that a minister of the crown, in his own specialized department, with his own particular method of doing things and in regard to a subject of which he has most intimate knowledge, will have to call in a man by number—7, 8 or 9—who knows nothing about the minister's idiosyncrasies or the subject concerning which he must do translation.

May I direct the attention of the house to a few more words in this bill. In clause 4 it does not say that all these men "shall" be transferred to this bureau; it says that they "may" be transferred. In this I think the bill is wrong. If the house passes this legislation, what right have we to say that employees may be appointed or may be left out according to who they are?

Clause 5 says nothing about "may," but it states:

An officer to be called the Superintendent of the Bureau for Translations shall be appointed.

It does not say that he may be appointed; it says that he shall be appointed. In this way in certain parts of the bill it says "may" and in other parts "shall." If we are going to have a bill to centralize, to which principle I am entirely opposed, we should have uniformity.

I am one of those who believe in two official languages, English and French, and I am pleased that most of the French Canadians in Quebec can speak the English language. I should like to suggest that every hon. member take the trouble to do what was done by the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) and the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin) who, when they first came into the house, could not speak a single word of English, and who to-day can make speeches in English to which not only this house but the people generally throughout the country are pleased to listen. Not from a political standpoint or from any other consideration in connection with this bill, but from an educational point of view, I hope every person in Canada will try to learn as much as he can of the two official languages. I am also one of those who

[Mr. Howard.]

believe in treating in exactly the same way the people who use these two languages. This bill cuts off from ultimate promotion, or, to put it more mildly, restricts the promotion of, our French Canadian fellow citizens. I am entirely opposed to that, just as I would be against restriction in regard to any promotion our English speaking fellow citizens might merit.

Having regard to the present situation in the country, to the demands that the Canadian people make of this parliament to-day, and to the expectancy with which our distressed citizens are looking for legislation, after going over the bills that have so far been introduced I feel there are other types of legislation much more important than a bill to put expert translators into a specialized, centralized bureau.

To go a step further, I would say that if this bill is to be put through I should like to have this added to it: When I was sitting on the other side of the house behind a government, I suggested that if any change were to be made I would favour giving a preference to French or English speaking citizens who had a knowledge of both languages. The Civil Service Act should be amended so as to carry at least a five per cent preference for bilingualism.

I hope the Secretary of State will either give some genuine reasons for introducing this bill or withdraw it. Before the bill passes, he should at least consult with the three authorities whom I have already quoted, who have written books and who are men of standing in literary matters, and get their candid opinion as to the translators.

If I may be pardoned a personal reference, I put in twenty-two years of my life among French Canadians in order to learn their language and their mentality, and I would not attempt to translate any document from English into French. While the Secretary of State is a citizen of the largest French Canadian city, with all his sympathies, which I admit, towards the French people, he cannot speak their language. I do not consider he is sufficient authority on the floor of the house to introduce such a bill as this, which is calculated to deprive our French Canadian fellow citizens of a right which belongs to them. This right to promotion is not a favour; it is their right. Therefore I trust the Secretary of State will reconsider his decision and withdraw the bill.

Mr. GEORGES BOUCHARD (Kamou-raska): Mr. Speaker, the bill before the house invites the earnest cooperation and consider-