

National Arts Centre

A French speaking Canadian may also have the mentality to listen to go-go music and then, he will have go-go culture. But that is not necessarily culture. And then, we are told about linguistic duality and cultural plurality. But what in the world has cultural plurality to do with this?

One cannot have several cultures. One has culture or one has not. Our culture includes Italian opera and English theatre and German opera and French opera.

The works of the Italian painters and Beethoven's symphonies. There is no language involved. It is not spoken. Are you going to tell me what is included in an exclusively German culture? Not at all. Music has no frontier. What does cultural plurality consist of? Does that mean that you can be cultured or not be cultured? To be half cultured? Or be cultured in several ways? Not at all. One either has culture or not at all. Period.

Now, in view of the facts and after the statement of the Prime Minister, after the facts I brought forward contradicting the statement of the Prime Minister—and I challenge the Prime Minister to question what I have mentioned, I have the names here and I can name them in the house and he will see that I am right.

After what happened concerning the Ottawa Railway Terminal, I feel we must retain an amendment before the house, but an improved amendment which will not foster racial discrimination in the country and will not be prejudicial, not to unity, in which I have never believed, but to the understanding which may exist.

That is why I wish to move a subamendment to the amendment of the member for Lévis. I move, seconded by the member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard), that:

All the words, after the word Canada, be deleted.

So that the amendment will be worded as follows:

In the appointment of members and officers of the board, the linguistic duality of Canada will be taken into account.

Period. And the following words "and of its cultural plurality" will be struck off.

Even though the linguistic duality of Canada is taken into account, we do not discriminate against anyone. English and French are recognized as the two official languages of Canada and when a piece of legislation provides that, in the appointment of the directors of the National Arts Centre,

the linguistic duality must be taken into account, no racial discrimination is involved. There is no ill-will in this.

Other racial groups in Canada will not seek revenge, because when they first come to Canada, they know this is a bilingual country with two official languages, French and English.

I feel that with this amendment, the amendment of the member for Lévis should be maintained and passed by all members of the house. In the future, we shall probably see more directors and executives able to speak both languages within crown corporations.

We, the members of the standing committee on trade and finance, recently visited Expo '67. We met there several directors and most of the people we met were bilingual, could speak French and English. They will be better able to welcome the visitors, to fulfil their duties, and we believe that, in the case of all crown corporations, such as Expo '67, by beginning with a legislation dealing with a corporation which is being created, which does not exist yet, and including that, we will reach that objective for that corporation and it will probably be desirable and preferable to include the same provision for all future crown corporations.

[*English*]

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great interest to the predictable remarks of the hon. member for Lapointe. I say "predictable" because they are so constant. He continues a never-ending struggle for the recognition of what might be called "the French fact", and I have applauded the hon. member's efforts in the past. However, I wonder whether at times the hon. member for Lapointe, in his enthusiasm to bring about better understanding between the English and the French not only in the province of Quebec but in the whole of Canada, hurts this cause instead of helping it. I wonder whether he should not consider, as I do, that when he insists on the appointment of French speaking Canadians on the boards of directors of crown corporations he is, without realizing the fact, actually insulting the very people he has been elected to protect.

• (5:40 p.m.)

I consider that any legislation making it imperative for a French speaking Canadian to be on a board of directors, not necessarily