

Therefore, further to the Commissioner's recommendations and to respond to the expectations of linguistic minorities in the country, in Quebec, New Brunswick or elsewhere, I propose, seconded by Senator Molgat:

That clause 4 of Bill C-15 be deleted and replaced by the following:

4. Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date Parts IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X of the *Official Languages Act* apply, with such modifications as the circumstances require, to the authority in relation to the airport as if

- (a) the authority were a federal institution; and
- (b) the airport were an office or facility of that institution, other than its head or central office.

For any honourable senators who might interested, I have French and English copies of this motion in amendment.

I thank you, honorable senators.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honorable senators, at the moment, we are fighting for the integrity of this country—

The Hon. the Speaker: Senator Gigantès, I am sorry to interrupt you, but I think I must first submit this motion in amendment to the Senate.

● (1730)

[English]

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Corbin, seconded by the Honourable Senator Molgat:

That clause 4 of Bill C-15 be deleted and replaced by the following:

4. Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date Parts IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X of the *Official Languages Act* apply, with such modifications as the circumstances require, to the authority in relation to the airport as if

- (a) the authority at this were a federal institution; and
- (b) the airport were an office or facility of that institution, other than its head or central office.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion in amendment?

Some Hon. Senators: Yea.

Some Hon. Senators: Nay.

[Translation]

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government in the Senate): Honourable senators, could I put a question to Senator Corbin?

Senator Corbin: Yes, Senator Murray.

Senator Murray: Senator Corbin, in what respect is your amendment different from the one we just voted on?

[Senator Molgat.]

Senator Corbin: Senator Murray, I would like to ask you to look at Senator Frith's amendment and compare it to mine. You will see that I am adding parts taken from the Official Languages Act. I think they are Parts V, VI and VII in that Act.

If I am not mistaken, the amendment of Senator Frith—he will correct me if I am wrong—was to provide for the general and total application of the Official Languages Act, was it not?

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, I would like to support what Senator Corbin is saying. We are fighting right now to keep the country together and we are fighting against those in Quebec who seek, out of honest conviction, to split it apart. One of their constant arguments is that federal bilingualism is just window dressing, that there is no such thing, that it is not taken seriously and that, on this side of the Ottawa River, we are always willing to do away with it.

So, I beseech you not to reject Senator Corbin's amendment, because you would be providing separatists with new ammunition. Whether they care or not for minorities—some do not—they will say: What did we tell you, bilingualism is window dressing, it is just smoke and mirrors.

I urge senators from Quebec on the other side to vote in favour of this amendment to help the country survive. It is a small price to pay, and you should be willing to pay it.

Thank you.

Hon. L. Norbert Thériault: Honourable senators, I do not know exactly where we are and whether the amendment of Senator Corbin is still before the Senate, but I would like to join with Senator Eymard Corbin and others in asking my colleagues in the Senate to think carefully about their decision, before rejecting the amendment of Senator Corbin.

As a francophone from outside Quebec—apparently we cannot say French-Canadians any more, because people in Quebec, and especially Quebec intelligentsia, do not like this expression which still rings true to me.

I am now talking solely to senators from Quebec, like my French-speaking colleagues and even English-speaking ones from New Brunswick. Some, here today, worked with Senator Simard and others, in a previous life, for the development of the French fact in New Brunswick.

Honourable senators, it seems to me that my colleagues in the Senate should realize that this is not a matter of confidence towards the government. All my life I have been part of a caucus and I know that some times, for reasons of solidarity, one is almost compelled to support a bill that is to become government policy. As my colleague Senator Gigantès put it succinctly, this is an excellent illustration of a senator taking a non-partisan decision on an important matter.

As a francophone from New Brunswick, I anticipate with sorrow that day not too long from now, when my fellow citizens from New Brunswick who don't speak French will not feel at home at Montreal's airport. Indeed, because of Quebec's official unilingualism, chances are we won't hear much English in Montreal in a few years.