

Official Languages

Mr. Speaker, a study made by the Treasury Board reveals that the representation of Francophones and bilingual civil servants is not adequate. Bilingualism programs are neither effective nor adequate. Recruitment for top jobs still encourages a greater number of unilingual Anglophones.

National unity must be strengthened through equality of rights and opportunity for all Canadians, whether they speak English, French or another language. We maintain, Mr. Speaker, that the problem in this country is not a language problem but a problem of participation. Even if the whole federal administration were bilingual, nothing would be solved because French Canadians would not feel at home.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot solve the problem only through bilingualism. It is most important that the structures and the members of the administration be really distributed according to a fair percentage in relation to the relative importance of the ethnic elements which make up this country.

For a long time, Mr. Speaker, we have been living on hope; in 1969, when the Official Languages Act was passed, a great hope was born because we thought then that we would be offered something tangible to solve the problems of bilingualism. And that hope, we felt it and we thought that the Laurendeau-Dunton Commission, which cost a great deal of money, would make suitable suggestions and find suitable solutions to really solve the problem. But such was not the case. This royal commission simply taught us that there were in Canada a certain number of French Canadians, a certain number of English Canadians and a certain number of Germans, Ukrainians, Polish and many other nationalities, and we were given percentages and numbers and this commission cost as we all know close to \$9,500,000.

Mr. Speaker, this has cost a lot of money and it has not solved the problem. Many Canadians were disappointed, English speaking as well as French speaking. We were disappointed because this commission did not produce such great results.

But as statistics show, there has been no progress but a stagnation, and in certain areas, a regression. I would like to see us achieve an atmosphere of objectivity, of realism, devoid of any animosity akin to a struggle between two ethnic groups.

Mr. Speaker, we could quote figures. Several hon. members have already done so; we now know that the participation of ethnic groups is decreasing in the Public Service when it should be increasing; yes, it should have gone up considerably, but it has diminished. We therefore feel, Mr. Speaker, that we have lost ground on that score. We must therefore update, put back in evidence all facts, concretize them and act according to reality, to the logical and justified requests which are being made by various personalities, by those who have a vast knowledge of biculturalism, multiculturalism, etc.

• (1540)

Mr. Speaker, in order to establish a true system of equality here, they say and I quote:

[Mr. Latulippe.]

Excerpt from the conclusion of the report written on behalf of the task force on bilingualism of the Treasury Board by Mr. Gilbert Langelier. This report is entitled: French Language Units: machinery for implanting a system of equality in the Public Service. The sub-titles are those of *Le Devoir*.

The study may appear to some as being very critical of the present experiment.

We are aware of the possibility of such an interpretation. We would like here to clarify the grounds of our approach. We strongly believe that the implementation of true bilingualism in the Public Service implies that French must occupy an important place as a true language of work.

The government must take action to implement the principle of equality between French-speaking and English-speaking employees, a principle which is essential as long as the fact of working in French will be a disadvantage.

The government has started to implement a policy in that sense but it appears at this time to be too timid and weak to achieve the principle of equality. Obviously, it is only an experiment to better inform the government on the possibility of institutionalizing French Language Units as an element of organization and management.

However, thought must be already given to the components to be considered in the formulation of a policy of over-all bilingualism aimed at achieving the principle of equality between French-speaking and English-speaking employees in the Public Service. The implementation of such a policy will require co-operation and planning at the level of those responsible for bilingualism and will require available human and financial resources to bring about the necessary changes.

The study underway has clarified the nature of the necessary changes and stated ways of achieving them. We are aware of the amount of work that will be required to implement those changes but we firmly believe that their importance warrants perseverance and the necessary resources to carry them out. So, objective No. 4, which reads as follows:

"Secure gradually the place French deserves besides English as a language of work in the federal Public Service" should be made the priority objective of the new Bilingualism Division of the Treasury Board and grant the necessary resources to achieve it. Once this objective has been achieved, all the others will be much more easy to reach.

We hope finally that the point of view we have adopted will be properly understood and that people will recognize the FLU is the main agent for the realization of institutional bilingualism.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not read the findings of the report any further: the rest is more of the same. But, Mr. Speaker, we are in complete agreement with the clause dealing with equality and with the Spicer report which also deals with equality and the opportunity of participation.

We entirely agree on that and we also agree, Mr. Speaker, on the preamble to the resolution of the right hon. Prime Minister. But we disagree with him on the methods he is proposing to apply those reforms.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to propose an amendment to the amendment of the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte):

That the amendment moved by Mr. Stanfield be amended by adding, next after the words "and other appropriate statutes", the following words: "and the government studying the possibility of setting up, organizing and implementing a parallel administration, one English-speaking, the other French-speaking, in all departments of the federal government;

(a) each department shall have two sections, one English, the other French; the size of these sections shall be proportional to the requirements of their respective administrative needs, which means that the departments shall not necessarily have the same number of employees;