

Official Languages

my colleagues, that the necessary corrections will be brought to it in order to improve it as much as possible. Until then, Mr. Speaker, let us show understanding and tolerance.

I am happy to say that this is the policy adopted by our party leader, who is anxious to see national unity preserved.

The one million English-speaking Canadians living in Quebec and the one million French-speaking Canadians living outside Quebec deserve to have their languages recognized in their respective environments and to be provided with the services they are entitled to in their own language.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for Bill C-120.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I will make a few remarks only in connection with the bill on the recognition of the two official languages, which is introduced by the government, and which, in my opinion, is quite timely, even if it is overdue. The introduction by the government of that official languages bill will probably not change much because finally the teaching of languages is for the most part the responsibility of the provincial government.

Above all I would like to deal with the following idea which has been discussed for some years, mainly in the province of Quebec, and as a French Canadian, I would like to say a few words about those who advocate, chiefly in the province of Quebec, the priority of one language, and who as soon as the topic is about finance, about administration and other things, at once wave the flag of dissatisfaction in connection with languages, which does not change the situation in any way.

To clarify the debate, I would like to give hon. members, this afternoon, a detailed account of the work accomplished by the Ralliement créditiste since it has been represented in the house.

I suggest that the French language is far from being about to disappear from Canada as some politicians, mostly French-speaking ones, who have few scruples when they speak about linguistic equality, would have us believe.

In my opinion, those politicians are irresponsible men and show by their words how independent they are and that they do not care at all about the common good of Canadians, particularly those in the province of Quebec. For them, it is enough to try to stir

up panic within the Canadian people, to get them to quarrel and separate one day, so that they may carry out their design, which I would call false and dishonest.

All those demagogic detractors are feeding on their fellow citizens, either French or English Canadians. To achieve their goal, they think only of inducing disorder, and even disputes if at all possible.

Those politicians play hard on sentimental values, such as language, in the first place, religion, race, colour, and so on, thus dividing in order to rule, because they are not powerful enough.

At this stage, I would like to quote from an article by Mr. Viateur Beaupré published in *Le Devoir*, and I quote:

The Great Pity of the So-called Mother Tongue
 "Those people are now justified in saying: What! You claimed to be French, and you do not know how to speak or write your language!..." Daudet, *The Last Lesson*.

We have given them this right; we now have to take it away from them. There is a very simple but very difficult way: learn how to write and speak our language. Because "as long as a people which has fallen into slavery holds on to its language, it is as if it were holding the key of the prison..." adds Daudet.

We shall not break prison only with this tool of language. Culture is also politics, economy, arts, the taste of bread, the bouquet of wine, courteousness, righteousness, and everything.

Even if we would shake ourselves free in all other respects, without mastering our language better, we would have that dubious comfort of being free barbarians.

Mr. Speaker, let us ask ourselves what are the views of those who have served in our armed forces since confederation, especially during the last world war. Should we not also ask ourselves why those men in the past wars gave their life to save Canada?

Did those brave Canadians ask themselves if they were fighting in English or in French? I say no! With the help of the Allies, Great Britain and others, they saved their country, Canada, with all its human wealth, irrespective of their language and culture.

Closer to me, there was my brother, Antonio Beaudoin, a member of the Fusilliers du Mont-Royal regiment who died at Dieppe, in 1942. He received five decorations, including the Victoria Cross. He was a gallant soldier and he died at Dieppe at the age of 22. He gave his life for Canada and the Commonwealth. He did not ask himself, I am sure, if he was fighting for English Canada or for French Canada. All he wanted was to save freedom, protect Canada of which he was so proud.