

The Budget—Mr. Marchand

meetings and in undertaking this research program which is very expensive. In order to get a satisfactory answer to this question, the intentions which lead to setting up the royal commission should be kept in mind.

I should now like to quote a few paragraphs from the statement made on December 17, 1962 by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) when he was leader of the opposition.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): On a point of order, I am sorry to interrupt the minister, but I wonder whether he intends to use the time at his disposal to deal with the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, since we are now dealing with measures designed to levy funds for the government. I wonder what connection there is between the two subjects.

Will the Laurendeau-Dunton commission find the means to levy the funds required to meet the expenses anticipated? Of course, a few references can be made to the commission, but not a whole speech.

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): A general discussion is held during the Budget debate.

Mr. Lambert: I am asking the question. The Speaker, on Tuesday afternoon, said that to discuss the C.B.C. was out of order because an amendment and a subamendment was before the house. We are now on the amendment and only the amendment can be discussed.

An hon. Member: Who moved the amendment?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, obviously I mentioned the commission in relation to the expenses it has incurred.

Mr. Lambert: These are not expenses.

Mr. Marchand: Yes, these are expenses. I thought that at this point on the Budget debate, I could discuss such a subject without being limited by the rules.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I thank the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) for having reminded the Chair and the hon. members that the minister could have strayed from the question now before us.

I think the minister simply wished to emphasize that, in some quarters, it was being mentioned that the inquiry of the commission had been rather costly. This is a budget matter. I think the minister may pro-

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ceed with his remarks, within the limits of the expenditures provided for in the budget.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, to make quite clear the extent to which these expenses were justified, I think I should indicate to the house what prompted the setting up of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, especially the idea that inspired its establishment.

To this end, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a few paragraphs from a speech delivered in this house on December 17, 1962 by the right hon. Prime Minister when he was leader of the opposition. The text can be found on page 2725 of the official report. Here is what he said, and subsequently, as Prime Minister, he presided over the cabinet which established the royal commission. I quote:

This means, I believe, that we have now reached a stage when we should seriously and collectively in this country review the bicultural and bilingual situation in our country; our experiences in the teaching of English and French, and in the relations existing generally between our two founding racial groups. In this review there should also be in my view, every opportunity and every encouragement for Canadians, individually or in their associations, and organizations, to express their ideas on this situation. If they find it unsatisfactory they should suggest concrete measures to meet it and to reach a better, more balanced participation of our two founding groups in our national affairs.

Are we ready, for instance, to give to all young Canadians a real opportunity to become truly bilingual? If the answer is yes, as I am sure it would be, what concrete steps should be taken at the different levels of our educational system to bring about this opportunity, having regard to the fact that constitutional responsibility for education is, and must remain, exclusively provincial? What further contribution to this end have we the right to expect from radio, from television and from films in both languages? How can we encourage more frequent contacts between young Canadians?

Then, there is the question which has already been mentioned in this debate, one of specific and inescapable federal responsibility. What are the reasons why there are relatively so few French-speaking Canadians in the professional and administrative jobs of the federal civil service, including crown corporations and federal agencies? How can that situation be improved as it must be improved? Would it be desirable, for instance, to have a bilingual school of public administration operated by the federal government in Ottawa?

● (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I think I have made it abundantly clear that those who, at that time, created the B and B Commission were not looking for transitory measures to solve an extremely difficult problem, but intended to