

*Official Languages*

can remain strong, united and healthy in a situation such as that.

To be able to speak two or more languages is certainly a wonderful goal for anyone to achieve, and no one can deny this. However, the debate on this legislation has opened up a variety of points and arguments, some of which are extremely worthy of our attention. I am particularly curious as to why the government feels justified in asking Canadians to provide the millions of dollars the implementation of this measure is going to cost when we find so many of our Indians and Métis people living in such deplorable poverty. It is quite possible that the cost of this particular program in its initial year alone would go a long way toward providing sufficient housing for at least those of our native people in greatest need, and particularly those who should have some comfort in their declining years. If this program were not being demanded by the government at this time, the cost of it for five years would possibly provide all the required housing for our native people in Canada.

• (9:00 p.m.)

It is my hope that the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development will make a strong plea to the government to provide sufficient funds with which to do this job now. But I will believe that when I see it. Yet we are now being asked to provide a like sum for an official languages program which is not, in my opinion, necessary at this time. If anyone doubts this, he need only look back to the creation of the ill-fated department of industry, the empire building now going on in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the empire building going on in the offices of some ministers. It is not difficult to calculate how many \$10,000 homes for our native people could have been built with the \$46 million which the Arts Centre cost; and this project was originally supposed to be built for some \$9 million to \$14 million. Therefore, let us not say that this legislation will not cost the taxpayers of our country a great deal of money.

Some amendments have been introduced; one of which allows the requirements of this bill to be provided by the government of Canada, beyond the boundaries of bilingual districts which the legislation will set up, provided there is sufficient demand for these requirements; but there is nothing in the legislation which states what constitutes sufficient demand.

[Mr. Simpson.]

Speaking of the proposed federal bilingual districts, some government members have attempted in their speeches to list by provinces just how few of these districts there actually will be. I have had a starred question on the order paper for some time in respect of this very matter. My question asks for the figures which were provided to the government under the 1961 decennial census indicating how many districts in Canada have 10 per cent or more people who speak English. I asked where these districts were and the census division in which they occurred. I also asked for the same information with regard to the census districts in Canada in which 10 per cent of the people had French as their native tongue. This question has not yet been answered. Therefore, when hon. members say that there will be no districts in British Columbia, one or so in Alberta and maybe four in Manitoba, I wonder just where they get this information, in view of the fact that the government has so far been unable to answer my starred question although it should have been answered some time ago.

I realize that anyone who raises an issue vis-à-vis Quebec and the rest of Canada runs the risk of being branded a bigot, and automatically anti-Quebec in the opinion of some people. However, people like our present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) tend to perpetuate this situation by their contradictory actions. It therefore becomes necessary for many of us to run the risk of such charges, merely to keep the record straight.

As reported at page 8907 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) used these words when quoting the Prime Minister:

—Canada had to survive as one national state. Within this state there is no room for special status, and there is no room for a degree of autonomy granted to any province that is not available to any other province.

Last week we listened with a great deal of interest to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) announce the agreement between the federal government and the government of the province of Quebec to establish a national park on Forillon Peninsula, in the Gaspé area. I am sure we were all pleased to hear that the province of Quebec had joined the other nine provinces in our national parks program. However, it was more than a little disturbing to learn that, unlike the other nine provinces which must turn the required land over to the federal government free of encumbrances