

# Why I support a policy of English unilingualism

By Mark Alchuk

As a Canadian nationalist I have become increasingly alarmed over the Trudeau government's attitude towards Canada's linguistic problem, and I have been driven into a state of embitterment concerning French Canada's demand for cultural and linguistic equality. The recent wave of French terrorism has increased that embitterment to a point where I now support a policy of English unilingualism, one official language for Canada.

To espouse a unilingual language policy in this country is not new, but at the present time to advocate such a cause is to be a heretic in the eyes of some English-Canadians. Since the election of the Pearson minority government, bilingualism has become the Bible and eleventh commandment of the Federal politician. The two founding races idea or cultural dualism has now come into full bloom and the Trudeau government shows every intention of increasing the size of the bilingual garden.

The last of us English thistles choking that garden are being weeded out or at least heavily sprayed with BSS, (bilingualism from sea to sea). I do not know who first conceived of the idea of national bilingualism, but its chief gardeners are alive and well and living in the Liberal government.

To say the least, bilingualism is not a popular policy with many Canadians, even new Canadians whose mother tongue is not English. Unfortunately those who believe the bilingual policy to wrong and unjust are branded racists or bigots by French leaders who stand to lose power under a policy of unilingualism and by English leaders who fear the loss of the French vote.

## The Utopian solution

Thus, the task of explaining one's sincere views on unilingualism becomes doubly difficult. Bitterness, contempt and hatred has always erupted when attempts are made to force the English speaking population to accept Quebec's demand for linguistic equality.

The invalid reasoning behind such ideas as two majorities, two founding races, special status and cultural dualism has always been rejected by Canadian nationalists. The policy of bilingualism has been put forward as the utopian solution; this will unite Canada according to Liberal Ottawa. This could be no further from the truth! Rather than uniting us, a continued policy of national bilingualism will drive the French speaking people into a further more deadly isolation.

French Canada exists now as an inward looking linguistic minority in an English speaking sea. Bilingualism will be the final brick in a wall to separate them from the reality of English language numerical superiority. Promoting bilingualism in English speaking provinces and creating French language pockets will increase that isolation. Bilingualism will be the coup de grace to Canadian national unity; the very thing it is supposed to be saving.

Canadian unity will always be threatened for Quebec is not a province like the others. Quebec is a province of Canada in name only; Quebec is a nation as foreign and as distinct from English Canada as Japan is from Britain. The upsurge in FLQ terrorism is the first labour pain of the birth of a new nation; the separatist Parti Quebecois is standing a day and night vigil by the bedside



ready to deliver the new state. The French of Quebec are no longer French-Canadians, they are Quebecois.

The intellectuals and the students of Quebec have no love for Canada, they are French and a whole generation of French-Canadians have been brought up to decry, if not to hate, the very words Canada and Confederation. This is not an exaggeration for the Parti Quebecois enjoys the support of nearly one quarter of the Quebec electorate, and their power is increasing.

Separatism is explained away today by drawing attention to the high unemployment in Quebec. We are constantly bombarded with such facts as, English Quebecers are better paid than French Quebecers, French Quebecers have higher unemployment and are second class citizens. We are never told why French-Canadians are unemployed and receive low wages, they just do somehow.

## English Canadian guilt

The guilt for all this however is placed squarely on English Canada. English-Canadians are being told that they alone are responsible for whatever is wrong in Quebec. English Canada is to blame for unemployment, English Canada is to blame for low wages, English Canada is suppressing the Quebecois. Using such absurd reasoning I wonder if Quebec is responsible for the poverty and unemployment in the Maritimes. I wonder if Quebec is responsible for unemployment in Ontario. I wonder if Quebec is responsible for the injustice committed against the real founding races of Canada, the Indians and Eskimos? I wonder if Quebec wants to take any blame itself for what is wrong in the province; it seems very unlikely!

The economic backwardness of the French Canadian has always been blamed on the energetic, competitive English entrepreneur. Most of French Canada's problems can be explained by the fact that it is a small cultural island in an English speaking business world with which it cannot compete; its backwardness stems from unreformed institutions, decades of

governmental corruption, Catholicism, and antiquated laws.

All these relevant considerations have been brushed aside and the French-Canadian, maintaining he is guiltless of Quebec's economic backwardness, continues to believe in some English-Canadian conspiracy against him. This twisted logic used to blackmail English Canada into accepting the bilingual policy has become intolerable.

The uncompromising French attitude towards English Canadian numerical superiority, their belief in some future quasi-independent French state and their refusal to accept the limitations of a minority language will continue to isolate the French people and accelerate the frequency of terrorist acts in Quebec.

The solution to Quebec's ills of course, is that magic word bilingualism. But bilingualism does not mean two languages for Canada, it means French unilingualism for Quebec and bilingualism for the rest of Canada. It is a policy allowing the French minority to work and live solely in the French language from sea to sea at the expense of English speaking taxpayers, who derive no benefit from such a policy. It is a policy designed to split forever the linguistic groups and make contact with either needless. It is the French-Canadian's dream to live in a French environment with absolutely no need of or knowledge of the English language to succeed.

In short, it is a policy of dualism, two nations; not two nations living as one, two nations living apart. Obviously such a policy is unacceptable for national bilingualism will surely divide the nation, not unite it.

## FLQ terrorism

Unfortunately terrorism may succeed in creating a feeling of indifference among English Canadians who are tired of hearing about Quebec and its separatists. Such an attitude is as deadly to Canadian survival as the FLQ terrorism. English speaking Canadians have a numerical, historical, economic, constitutional and legal right to

the predominance of the English language over the French. The French-Canadians are the conquered people, it is time they accept the English fact!

Bilingualism is a new idea and nowhere in the BNA act was there any reference made concerning the creation of a bilingual state; the Fathers of Confederation had no such intention. Bilingualism has become no more than a cheap but sure way of gaining the French vote and a tool our English leaders have used to betray the linguistic rights of the English speaking majority to further their own political ambitions.

The Canadian people have never been asked to support or reject the bilingual policy. Only through a national plebiscite can bilingualism be legally enforced in Canada. No government and no Prime Minister has the right to institute, execute and use public funds to support such an irrevocable policy. Only English Canada can say yes to bilingualism, but English Canada has never been consulted. This is proof that Trudeau's participatory democracy is nothing but a sham.

Bilingualism is nothing more than a bribe to French Canada to stay in Confederation; we have received only an inkling of the blackmail to come from separatist oriented Quebec. Quebec's leaders will pay lip service to bilingualism, but they are working towards an independent, French Quebec. Bilingualism is isolating the French and destroying Canada, yet Trudeau still maintains bilingualism will unite Canada.

In short, our Federal representatives now pursue the old maxim, twisted to their liking; divided we stand, united we fall.

## Leaders to blame

The blame for the rise in French nationalism rests on the English-Canadian leaders. By definite support of bilingualism or vague talk concerning it and fear of denouncing the terrorist organizations and separatist parties as overt treason against the national survival of Canada, they have kept alive French Canada's hope for separate status and quasi-independence.

Pearson's "opting out formula" and Royal Commission into Bilingualism and Biculturalism have caused great harm to Canadian unity. His timid rebuke to de Gualle in 1967 and his inability to deal with the "not-so-quiet revolution" have fostered anti-confederation feelings among the French. The young of French Canada have been taught by their elders that if their culture is to survive they must be free of Confederation.

Our only hope of deliverance from the civil anarchy which is rapidly descending upon our nation, lies in the reassertion of a single Canadian nationalism. Canada can exist only as one nation with one official language. Our experience over more than one hundred years has shown us that two different peoples can never live successfully as one.

The vain and ludicrous pursuit of cultural dualism which the Liberal government is executing as rapidly as possible will end in the break-up of our country. Bilingualism with all its ramifications, which was never an object of Confederation, must be abandoned. The bilingual experiment has failed, and failed miserably; it is time for a reassessment and a new formula!

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