

this effort to knit Canada together. If we leave them out and have three or four members each from Ontario, Manitoba and—

Mr. McQuaid: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mrs. MacInnis: Yes.

Mr. McQuaid: In respect of the argument the hon. member is now making, would she admit that this also applies to all the other provinces in Canada and not just to British Columbia.

Mrs. MacInnis: I agree absolutely, yes. I had thought that these arguments had been made so well on behalf of the Maritimes and other parts of Canada that I did not have to include them in my remarks. I do not want to get British Columbia in first. I want to be a Canadian first among fellow-Canadians from Victoria all the way to St. John's.

I think the danger lies in the fact that by leaving out parts of Canada these people will feel to some extent that the bill does not apply to them, and it will become increasingly more difficult for those of us from those areas to explain why they should be interested. We must remember that taxes from British Columbia will help to finance the implementation of this measure just as will the taxes from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and all across Canada. We will pay these taxes gladly if the people themselves understand this measure and believe in it. Let me urge the minister to let us all be a part of this from the beginning.

Some of us from British Columbia and from the Maritimes know that it is not easy to get the co-operation of a lot of people in our provinces because they live too far away from the great French culture in Canada to understand it. Some of us have had the good fortune to be able to get a little entrance into this culture. We have enjoyed it and want to make it ours. I want to make it British Columbia's culture together with our English speaking culture, but it will be very hard to do this if there is not a representative of our province on the board which will be responsible for administering the official languages bill.

• (5:50 p.m.)

May I say one further thing, Mr. Speaker. These remarks may not come within the ambit of the amendment under discussion, but if I make them now it may save my speaking again. I believe that a great deal

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will depend upon the commissioner. I make this plea to the minister. I suppose the commissioner will be French speaking and I hope he will be bilingual, but let him be somebody who has lived for a little while in western Canada. The commissioner should be a man familiar with many parts of this great country. It is not enough that he be an Ontarian or Quebecker; he should have lived in the west for a while.

An hon. Member: What about the maritimes?

Mrs. MacInnis: I do not mind if he has also lived in the maritimes; that would improve the picture.

[Translation]

Now I would like to conclude by quoting some remarks made by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) who said: Everyone must be led to accept both languages. It is not the number that counts: it is the certainty that everyone will be included, that every part of Canada will be represented.

[English]

The hon. member for York South has rightly said we deplore the fact that in order that the program be properly administered it must be chopped up into provincial compartments. However, at this stage I do not think there is any other way of making sure that the program is properly administered. We must depend upon provincial boundaries and seek representation from within those boundaries. Some day these boundaries may fade away and become regions; I hope they will if this proves to be a better way of achieving the purposes of the bill. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I again urge the minister to make sure that the province of British Columbia is represented on this board.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have just a few words to say on this amendment. I wonder why the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) does not simply say whether or not the amendment is acceptable to the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: Two of my colleagues have spoken this afternoon on this matter and I have listened closely to what was said by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis), and some members from the Maritime Provinces.