

Supply—Secretary of State

Mr. Courtemanche: We have no information about the amount spent for French or English publications.

Mr. Fisher: My question is not directed to the amount in terms of money, it is the amount in terms of volume or lineage. Surely the queen's printer has some idea of the ratio of printing done in English and printing done in French.

Mr. Courtemanche: They do not have any record because some printing is in English and some is in French and some is done in bilingual establishments.

Mr. Fisher: Has it been the case within the last year or two that orders for printing in English, that is publications printed in English, were placed in printing shops in Quebec, what you might call French printing shops? In other words, has the queen's printer had French printers printing English publications?

Mr. Courtemanche: There is no discrimination. They use the printers able to do the jobs, that is all.

Mr. Fisher: It seems to me there is an important point here. I should like to put it this way. As I said before, you have \$2,800,000 worth of outside printing in Ontario and \$1,452,000 in contracts going to Quebec, but almost nothing in the other provinces. I should like to know why more of the printing of publications in English cannot be done in the other provinces. We realize that bilingual printers in Quebec may have some advantage in connection with French publications or publications that contain both French and English within the one cover, but it seems to me in all fairness that if the publication is purely and simply an English one, then that contract should go to English-speaking Canada. And if it is purely and simply a French publication, then it should go to Quebec. I know the line cannot be drawn too tightly, but I suggest the minister consider this particular point.

Mr. Courtemanche: I answered this question a few minutes ago, and as I have said, in the future we will try to spread the printing of publications outside of the main provinces.

Mr. Chevrier: I cannot allow that last statement to go by without some comment. I wonder if the hon. member for Port Arthur realizes just how serious the statement is that he has made. He is reiterating in effect what has been said so often, that those who reside in the province of Quebec should be relegated to that province and no place else. I know that is not his intention, but when he makes the statement that English publications should be printed in English

Canada and French publications in the province of Quebec, I think that has pretty serious implications.

After all, there are in the province of Quebec printing establishments that could print pamphlets and the like in both languages. Some of these firms are composed of French speaking people who can, with competence and efficiency, print publications in the English language as well as in the French language. I am sure the hon. member—and I want to say this in fairness to him—did not have that intention in his mind. I certainly could not sit here and allow that statement to go by without challenging it in some form. I am sure it is not the intention of the printing bureau or of the minister that printing should be allocated in that way. There are in my opinion in the province of Quebec, as well as in the province of Ontario certain establishments such as *Le Droit*—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): And *La Feuille d'Érable* in Windsor and Tecumseh.

Mr. Chevrier:—and *La Feuille d'Érable* in Windsor and many others which could do equally good jobs in the English language and in the French language.

Mr. Bourque: As a retired printer, having spent my entire life in the printing industry and having published some of the best, the handsomest and the most deluxe books in Canada, I say this hon. gentleman is entirely wrong. In the province of Quebec we print English, French, and any other language as well as it is done in any other province in Canada or any other place on the American continent.

Mr. Fisher: I made no reflection on the quality of printing in Quebec at all. One of the pleasing things about Quebec is that they have managed not only to print quite a number of private publications but also have managed to sell enough of them to pay for it. I am quite complimentary in that regard. If I indicated that I thought French printing should be confined just to Quebec and English printing just to the rest of Canada, I made a mistake in my expression of opinion. What I meant was this; let us put it this way. If you have a document that is appearing only in English, naturally I feel that you should go to an English printer, if you can define an English speaking establishment; and if you have a wholly French document, then you should go to a French printer.

Mr. Courtemanche: As I said a few moments ago, we ask for tenders, whether in French or English, if they are able to do that.