

National Arts Centre

them justice and who demand to be considered as full partners within confederation. To say such things is not to show oneself as a racist, as someone suggested. Racism means a race that wants to dominate another. We do not want to dominate another race; we are aware that we are minority here, and when the vote is taken, we know that we shall not secure a majority. We know that pacts entered into in the past granted us certain sacred rights, for instance, participation in the government of the country, since we pay taxes as everybody else and take part in the life of the country. We demand therefore that those rights be spelled out in our legislation.

Mr. Chairman, since a vote may be taken on the subamendment, I want nevertheless the discussion held in the house to resound once again in the conscience of all my colleagues anxious to preserve Canada's unity. Whether we like it or not, the claims now being made in Quebec seem legitimate to us since they respond to aspirations which are quite natural and fundamental and will have to be met. Otherwise, separatism that we fear so much will take over.

Therefore, let us see where we stand. There is no question of racism, but it is a matter of sanctioning something once and for all, if we believe in the two nations which make up confederation. The thing is to decide whether our belief and our conviction should actually be reflected in our legislation. And it must be determined that mutual understanding is no longer simply a pious wish but something positive.

And to emphasize what I said earlier and prove that there is no narrow-mindedness or separatism in our province, although some of us argue their case passionately—it will be understood that this is the outcome of a century of frustrations and, to a certain extent it is understandable that they should raise their voices at a given time—nevertheless I want to prove that we are not fanatics, since we, in the province of Quebec, elect English speaking people. In my county, Mr. Chairman, we once elected a Jew, a Mr. Hartt, who was returned several times, even after being expelled from the legislature. A Mr. Ryan was elected, and if I went back over all the names of English people and Jews for whom French Canadians voted, there would be a long series of them.

But, Mr. Chairman, it seems that some people here want to do like the ostrich. The hon. member for Lapointe mentioned that

French Canadians considered they did not have fair representation in the various government departments and agencies, and that is true. I do not say this is necessarily due to an uncompromising attitude; I know that French Canadians did not always apply, but this is a fact which strikes the generation in 1966. I went to the trouble of listing, from the telephone directory, for certain departments and crown corporations, the names of the main officials, connected with the departments or management, and I found fantastic things.

In the Department of National Defence, out of 25 names, I find five which are French; I agree that some may have French names but I include them. In the Department of Industry, I find that, out of 45 names, three are French; I note that, in most cases, those people are in junior positions. In fisheries, out of 71 names, I note eight with a French name; I even count in those who have French names but speak English. In the Post Office Department, there are 71 of them, of which 16 are French. Mr. Chairman, I could go on like that *ad infinitum*. In the Department of Defence Production, I see 44 names, three of which are French. In the Department of National Health and Welfare, 52 names, 12 of which are French. In the Department of Transport 22 names, of which 19 sound French. In the Department of Public Works, the situation is not so bad; there is one third, 45 English speaking and 15 French speaking. Then with one third, we are satisfied.

[*English*]

Mr. McIlraith: That is not right. That figure is not the correct one for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Mongrain: I am willing to listen to the minister when he corrects me.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, I rise on a question of privilege. I do not want the hon. member to make a misstatement of fact about the ministry for which I am responsible.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mongrain: I am pleased the hon. minister corrected my figures, because I am not anxious to find fault with the minister or with the government; on the contrary, I have just said that, like many others, I admire what they have done until now. But I get my information where I can. I have the telephone directory, nothing else; so, if the hon. minister wants to correct my figures, he will find someone who is very pleased to stand corrected; let him correct my figures, by all means.