

Adjournment Debate

The Commissioner of Official Languages, Max Yalden, stated in October 1982 that it is time that the federal Government told the country what its official language program was all about. Today I am calling on the Parliamentary Secretary to request that the Government and the Cabinet enact, as law, Paragraph 7 of the House of Commons Resolution on official languages dated June 6, 1973, or to otherwise adopt the contents of my Private Members' Bill C-666, an Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to ensure that English-speaking Canadians are protected against the discriminatory bilingualism policies of the Liberal Government.

In order to assist the Human Rights Commission in rendering a decision on the case which is presently before it concerning discriminatory practices based on nationality, preference being given to the French nationality, I request that Bill C-141, an Act to amend the Human Rights Act, be brought back for debate. This is essential so that the five amendments I have tabled may be implemented to include language as a prohibited grounds of discrimination. It is imperative that we have laws to protect English-speaking Canadians, due to the discriminatory language policy of the Liberal Government.

English speaking civil servants are being dead-ended because of this so-called bilingualism policy. As an example of public concern over this issue, I have just received the highest return ever from a questionnaire I distributed within my constituency of Winnipeg-Assiniboine and extensively throughout Ontario. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine public sentiment pertaining to the Liberal Party's bilingualism policies and to determine general opinion on the necessity of holding an open parliamentary debate to discuss the elements of discrimination brought about by the Liberal Party's bilingualism policies. The results clearly point to the sentiment of the Canadian people. Of those responding to the polls, 98.35 per cent stated their desire for debate on these Liberal Government policies which are so blatant and discriminatory.

There have been obvious human rights violations of English-speaking Canadians employed in the Civil Service, the RCMP, the Armed Forces and Crown corporations. There is no doubt but that the merit system is being ignored and superseded by Government directives to give preferential treatment to francophones at the expense and to the detriment of anglophones employed in the public service.

In light of the Human Rights Commission being charged today in the Federal Court of Canada Trial division for the delay in rendering a decision on cases referring to discrimination based on the application of preferential treatment of francophones to the detriment of anglophones, I have in my hand a copy of a writ served on a Human Rights Commission directing the Commission to hold a hearing on a complaint which has been filed with regard to the awarding of preferential treatment to francophones in the RCMP. The application will be made to the Federal Court of Canada on March 17, 1983, under Section 18 of the Federal Court Act.

Is it the Liberal Government's policy to make Canada a French state? I ask this question in light of the statements

made in Halifax by the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal). He referred to "the ambition of making Canada a French country, both inside and outside Quebec", and the task of making "Canada a French state", which he has taken on.

• (1805)

The Minister has also introduced a Bill that would force bilingualism on the private sector and which would impose fines and jail sentences for non-compliance. By reason of the statements made by the Secretary of State, and by reason of the existing circumstances of the Human Rights Commission, I am calling on the Government to hold an emergency full-scale and open parliamentary debate to discuss its discriminatory policies on bilingualism.

Incidentally, I have had questions on the Order Paper for a year in an attempt to obtain more information with regard to these hiring teams, what Provinces they are going into and what nationalities they will be hiring in their recruiting program. I hope we can have some concrete answers from the Parliamentary Secretary tonight with respect to these discriminatory practices.

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, because the Parliamentary Secretary had to make an out-of-town speech tonight, he asked me to answer on his behalf.

I would point out that in his answer to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) mentioned the reasons for this policy. On April 23, 1982, he stated that he was not aware of the particular Order in Council or directive to which the Hon. Member was referring. He speculated that this directive had been necessary because the attractions of Quebec City were very great as opposed to Ottawa, because very few qualified French Canadians knew they would be able to work in a language environment conducive to the kind of productivity of which they are capable. He pointed out that the position of the Hon. Member was in direct contradiction to the policy of his Party and his Leader.

In his question in the House that day, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine raised the matter regarding the operations of the House of Commons. The Speaker felt it necessary to answer him, pointing out that his reference to rights in the House was incorrect. Therefore, we have a number of cases where the information put forward by the Hon. Member is not as accurate as he would have us believe.

The Hon. Member cites with great flair his questionnaire. On the basis of what he said in the House, I would suggest that it was a biased questionnaire. If this were in court, he would be told by the other attorneys that he is posing leading questions. Therefore, it is not surprising he got the kind of results he did with his questions framed in that manner.

The Hon. Member made reference to statements made by the Secretary of State, and made the ludicrous assertion that it is the policy of the Government of Canada to make this country a French state. I feel that his assertions are blatantly