

recommendations, and we look forward to their speedy implementation. I am for once, happy, to say I am in complete agreement with the government.

● (1220)

[Translation]

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to see the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) table the interim report of the commission of inquiry into bilingual air traffic service in Quebec.

First, I should like to thank the minister for having had the courtesy to table the report in both official languages. He did not try, as his colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) did yesterday, to table a report only in English under the pretext that waiting for the translated version would have delayed tabling the document. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the ministers, that this is the last time we allow unilingual documents to be tabled, even in French. If the ministers are in such a hurry to table their documents, let them speed up the translation. We will not allow a single unilingual report to be tabled, and I do not want to have to say it again. If they need that to learn what elementary courtesy is all about, we will show them.

Mr. Speaker, to come back to the report tabled today, I am sure all hon. members who believe in Canadian unity are pleased with its findings. Indeed, the report recognizes that bilingualism is no threat to air safety in Quebec.

One can read the following statement in the same report: there has never been an accident or incident in the province of Quebec that could in any way be said to be related to the use of the two official languages in air traffic control. Mr. Speaker, that gives the lie to the racists and alarmists who, through terror and duplicity, have tried to crush the legitimate expectations of French-speaking pilots and controllers. Mr. Speaker, the report goes on to say that it is safer for everybody to have all pilots in the air functioning in a language they comprehend, capable of fully understanding instructions addressed to them, and able to give clear and accurate reports of essential flight information.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this sentence admirably sums up our position concerning bilingualism in air traffic control; we are happy to see that the commission in its interim report states identical principles as those we, in our party, have sustained for quite a long time.

* * *

[English]

**REPRESENTATION AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
READJUSTMENT ACT (ONTARIO)**

MEASURE RESPECTING READJUSTMENT OF ONTARIO
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board)
moved for leave to introduce Bill C-60, to readjust the

Ontario Electoral Districts

representation of Ontario in the House of Commons and to readjust the electoral districts in Ontario.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is not able to be here today. However, he wanted it brought to the attention of the House, and I agree with him, that this bill is not being introduced by the responsible minister. We do not want to block the bill, but we do want to bring to Your Honour's attention the past practice with regard to reasonable doubt and other considerations not being within the purview of the minister's responsibility. In this case the bill should be in the name of the President of the Privy Council rather than that of the President of the Treasury Board. I want to make that notation with respect to the introduction of this bill.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre did raise that point at an earlier date and the Chair has been made aware of it. We have attempted to give it some study. There is no indication, in our review, that it is a point of such sufficient gravity that it should prevent the introduction of the bill. However, it does raise some rather interesting long-range problems on the question of ministerial responsibility. The point is well noted. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), on a point of order.

Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, as a member from Quebec I feel obliged today to refuse that the bill be read for the first time now. If I may, I should like to say why I object.

First, the bill infringes upon the privileges of hon. members from the province of Quebec who are less numerous than those from Ontario who will be even more numerous, without Quebec getting an equitable adjustment. In my opinion, all Quebec members in this House should rise against the introduction of this bill which infringes upon their privileges and we say if Ontario has one more seat, let Quebec have one more as well.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was prepared to permit the hon. member a brief point of order to indicate to the Chair his intention to take a position with respect to the bill. If it had gone on any longer, I would have considered it to be a speech on the motion itself. It is extraordinary to have a motion for first reading opposed. Therefore, I intended to allow the hon. member some latitude in order to indicate his position to the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve): No.