

Official Languages

I have here an excerpt of the 28th of August 1967 issue of the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* which reads as follows:

[English]

There is surely no reason why we could not have two languages and two cultures existing side by side and yet have an effective nationhood. English speaking Canadians should accept and welcome the French language and culture in Canada as a continuing fact. This involves no more than the acceptance of reality and the recognition that the French tradition is a great tradition which has contributed and will contribute much to our national life.

● (4:40 p.m.)

The speaker was the then Premier Robert L. Stanfield of Nova Scotia, and the time was not August, 1967, but April 6, 1964.

[Translation]

This statement from my leader clearly illustrates his stand.

I am going to quote another of his other statements:

The Canadian federation will work only if the French-Canadian people do not feel threatened in their development as such.

And also on March 10 last, he said and I quote:

Everywhere in the world, the citizen must pay a price for his right to citizenship. In some countries, he pays with his freedom—in others with his life—in others again with his pride and his peace of mind.

Compared to that, the price which the Canadian people are asked to pay is not so high. I believe that it is a price which we are prepared to pay.

Let there be no misunderstanding.

Should there be a Canadian who would divide this country further, I am not his leader.

There is the proof of my leader's position with regard to the language and the rights of the French Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it my duty to refer to some remarks, made during this debate because I believe they reflect on my province.

For instance, the Saint-Léonard affair was mentioned. Mr. Speaker, that is the only incident of that kind in the province of Quebec in the last hundred years. I could tell those people who fear that the same situation may become the rule in the province of Quebec that each time the Saint-Léonard case is mentioned with respect to Quebec, one can bring up hundreds of similar cases throughout the country that were directed against my fellow French-Canadians.

Reviving those stories will never bring about an understanding. It should be remembered that we, in the province of Quebec,

[Mr. Ricard.]

are proud of the way we have treated the English-speaking minority.

In our province of Quebec, 38 per cent of expenditures incurred for education go to English institutions. And it must be noted that the English-speaking people of Quebec represent but 18 per cent of the population.

It must be mentioned also that McGill University, which is regarded as an English university, is subsidized by the government of Quebec in the ratio of 70 per cent. Needless to repeat that the large majority of taxpayers in Quebec are French-speaking Canadians.

Some have also said that capital was flowing out of the province of Quebec because of the uncompromising attitude of the Quebec population.

I should like to correct such an impression because it is entirely false and to inform the house that if some are afraid of the province of Quebec, many English companies have faith in it.

In fact, during the last months, Shell Oil of Canada Limited has invested \$100 million and Golden Eagle, \$70 million, in Montreal. Canadian International Paper has invested \$50 million in Gatineau, Quebec North Shore Paper, \$54 million in Baie-Comeau and B.A.S.F., \$30 million. Donahue Bros. has invested \$16 million in La Malbaie, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., \$11.5 million in Valleyfield, General Foods Ltd., \$7.7 million in Ville LaSalle, J. H. Normick, \$2.1 million in La Sarre, Burlington Industries, \$1.15 million in Granby, Canada Packers Ltd., \$1,225,000 in Joliette, Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., \$1 million in Joliette, Chemcell Limited, \$1 million in St. Bruno, and Simons Cigar, \$1,029,000 in Sainte-Thérèse. I could go on giving the names of other companies which have invested millions of dollars in the province of Quebec.

● (4:50 p.m.)

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this is sufficient to show that reasonable people, English Canadians who study reality objectively and advisedly, have confidence in the province of Quebec and want to continue to do their share in promoting in Quebec the interests of French-speaking Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, imperfect though the measure before us may be, I will vote in favour of it. It is possible, Mr. Speaker, to disagree with certain clauses of the bill, without having to condemn it as a whole. The bill will be studied in committee and I hope, as do some of