

*Official Languages*

only successful invasion of the British isles was carried out by those people, and my ancestors were among them. I refer to the Norman French. These people learned to live together in England and have done so for 900 years. They developed a parliamentary system, about which we will have more to say during the rest of this week. The English and French signed an agreement 100 years ago in an attempt to carry out a bold experiment. They wanted to see whether they could live peacefully together after all the useless bloodshed that had taken place in Europe for years. They wanted to try this experiment on this northern half of the North American continent.

There are bigoted families living on both sides of the Ottawa river. In spite of this we have developed a great nation. I have a great hope and belief that this nation is not about to fall apart. Those people on both sides of the river who might do this nation damage are in the minority. Let us look at the legality of this bill and try to remember that gentleman's agreement of 100 years ago which began this experiment on the basis of a certain equality.

There are many things about this bill which could create great fears, some imaginary and some otherwise. The bill provides great power, and power could be abused. There are powers given by the Criminal Code in respect of the arrest of individuals. A bad policeman could abuse those powers. I know something about this, but I did not abuse them.

Let me attempt to take a positive approach. One cannot write a statute that does not contain powers which cannot be abused. Let me give the government the benefit of the doubt in this respect. This may not be a perfectly worded statute but it does contain these powers which may create stronger fears in some sections of our community than in others. I have in mind those roles played by one party and another party over a period of years. The civil service has been supported by one party or another party, and this in itself is reason for fear. The morale of the armed forces has not always been excellent as a result of the exercise of political authority, whether or not the exercise of that authority has been carried out by bilingual, unilingual or multi-lingual people.

I intend to speak of something other than the fears often expressed by members of our armed forces. I have said all I intend to say

about politics in this area. Let me move to a discussion of whether or not it is worthwhile spending a great deal of money—the price of a battleship or two—for cultural purposes. Is it worthwhile to spend this considerable amount of money to advance the French language? I have spent a lot of money trying to learn this language and have found it is difficult once you get beyond a certain age to learn a second language.

I hope the government will not abuse the powers written into this act by preventing a person who has spent the major portion of his life in the civil service from obtaining a well deserved promotion in either the civil service, the mounted police or the armed forces. I should hate to think a man who has distinguished himself in battle and risen to the rank of Brigadier-General could not be promoted to Lieutenant-General or a full General because his cultural aptitude had become calcified. It would be strange if that cultural aptitude did not become calcified over a period of time.

It would be very useful for a member of the diplomatic service to have two languages, or if one were selling corsets in Quebec. I do not intend to stress that. Let me return to the main theme. Within this bill there is an aspect of national unity. I have in mind one Canada, strong and free. This cannot be accomplished only by "Les Anglais", and it cannot be done only by people of French origin. This must be a team effort. This is something that cannot be settled by a third group in Canada, those who came here by choice. This is something which first of all must be settled by those of us who have perhaps neglected our duty in respect of our French speaking brethren. I have no hesitation in saying that our French speaking brethren from time to time have been somewhat lacking in their tolerance of us. I could cite an example of this which took place no longer than a day or two ago.

When we pass this bill, and I say "we" because I intend to vote for it, let us take another look at the whole situation. The passage of this bill will provide us with a new opportunity to go ahead in Canada in our 102nd year to show the scoffers that they were wrong. We want to keep Quebec in Canada, not to make this country strong in numbers but because we like the people of Quebec. This is not idle chatter on my part. If you come to Alberta, my province, you will see that in some districts at least one third of the population is French speaking. We like