

Official Languages

not know the cost involved. This government does not know the cost. Perhaps the government will find itself in the position the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) predicted the other day when he said that if we do not control hospital and medicare costs, we will be bankrupt.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member would mind very much if I interrupted to remind him that the discussion should be limited to the motion before the house. I anticipate that there will be further general debate on third reading, and it seems to me that the very interesting remarks being made by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) would be more pertinently made on third reading than on a motion moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) which deals with a rather specialized aspect of the bill now before the house.

An hon. Member: What about the minister?

Mr. Rynard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am coming to the point as fast as I can. I am laying the ground work. I have not spoken previously on the bill. I find fault with it because the provincial premiers were not consulted and a consensus has not been arrived at in Canada. If we are to have three school systems, what will happen to the separate schools in the province of Ontario? Will they have less and less funds with which to carry on? They are short of funds now, particularly in secondary education. It may sound fine to the English in Quebec to have English schools, and the French elsewhere to have French schools. I agree with this program provided we can afford it and it will not mean poor quality schools which will make our young people second-class students and non-competitive in a world of quality scholars.

This is an age of irresponsible financing. Do we know if we can handle this program? I want the people of my riding, be they French, English or of any other ethnic origin, to be not discriminated against when they apply for a civil service job at Malton, Toronto or anywhere else. I do not want any French speaking person from my riding discriminated against because he does not speak English. I do not want people of any ethnic origin discriminated against if they want a job and qualify other than in respect of language. I do not want language to be made a barrier. People must have the opportunity to learn the other language in a reasonable period of time. There are not in this bill adequate

[Mr. Rynard.]

safeguards to prevent discrimination of this type.

Like everything else the government does, this matter has been handled in a dictatorial way, with little acceptance of ideas and thoughts from anyone else. This has been proven by amendment after amendment getting the axe. When you think you know it all, you are hopeless. That is our problem today in this house. There has been today a great deal of talk about the civil service. You may be a civil servant for years. I met a civil servant who some years ago went to lengths to become bilingual. He obtained a civil service job in Ottawa and took a position that never required the bilingualism he had acquired. I ask, Mr. Speaker: Is he still bilingual?

We have in the civil service some very brilliant people who speak only one language. Are they to be discriminated against, as the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) asked, because they cannot learn the second language, or because they have been in the civil service for so many years that they do not feel they are capable of learning it or should do so? I believe this provision would put the civil service at a distinct disadvantage in respect of its ability to hire competent people. Many of these employees with ability cannot be replaced. Are we to discriminate against them because they speak only French or English? As the hon. member for Hamilton West asked: Are people to be discriminated against because they find it impossible to learn the second language? Perhaps we should look at our Bill of Rights, but frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not expect this government to do anything but muddle up the languages bill.

• (9:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, we have discussed several amendments concerning this bill on the official languages, but we are astounded by the impertinence of the amendment now before us.

I must now congratulate the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) for setting the record straight so adequately that I wonder whether the movers of the amendment will ever understand things which I consider elementary, since everything said by the hon. members of the Conservative party is completely beside the point and they seem to overlook the principle that full bilingualism will apply only in bilingual districts. Therefore, there is