

*Private Bills*

which applications are invited for the position of "head of the editing section of another department", and there again, it is the same thing. In fact, for hours, I could list competition notices published by the civil service commission and in which it is not required that applicants have at least a knowledge of both languages. Yet, these civil servants have to work in the public interest throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, on March 5 last, in Toronto, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) lashed out at the civil service commission, which he charged with bringing about separatism among French Canadians. But I wonder what action this government means to take to remedy the present situation in the civil service commission. Reforms in this respect had been promised in order that French speaking Canadians might be on an equal footing with English speaking Canadians, as concerns civil service positions.

Mr. Speaker, at a meeting of the committee on privileges and elections, we heard some witnesses, and more particularly Mr. Keith Davey, chief organizer of the Liberal party. I asked Mr. Davey whether he received a government salary; he answered no. However, following a question I put on the order paper, as reported on pages 3354 and 3355 of *Hansard* for October 9, 1963, the answer given to me was that Mr. Kent was attached to the office of the Prime Minister and that his salary was \$20,000 a year. On the other hand, in the committee on privileges and elections, Mr. Keith Davey said his main responsibility was—

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm is out of order; his remarks have nothing to do with the matter under consideration.

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm mentioned Mr. Keith Davey, and now he speaks about Mr. Kent. I think he is confusing the two men. Mr. Davey does not receive a salary from the government.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I want to be frank with hon. members. I made a mistake, I confused Mr. Kent with Mr. Davey, and the hon. member who just sat down is quite right.

The Secretary of State spoke of measures to improve the situation, and some government employees are now attending courses in a Hull school. Now, those courses are paid by the federal government, and I am asking hon. members whether they think it fair

[Mr. Pigeon.]

and reasonable that the Canadian government, under the pretext of helping our English speaking fellow citizens, should put at their disposal, during their working hours, teachers paid out of public funds.

French Canadians had to pay out of their own money to take courses after working hours in order to learn the English language, while our English speaking compatriots are learning French at the expense of all Canadian taxpayers during hours which should be used for their office work. I wonder whether that is fair or whether it is essential, to settle the bilingualism problem existing in the federal civil service. We know that the minority Therrien report is quite explicit on that matter. In fact, Mr. Therrien stated:

French Canadian civil servants cannot freely use the French language as a means of communication within the federal administration.

Federal civil servants from the province of Quebec asked for a special consideration and indemnity, in other words, that a bonus be paid to them because they are bilingual. I wonder when the government will take action and give effect to its promise, because we who sit on this side of the house are despairing and we wonder if this will not be another promise put off indefinitely, as the government did when it promised to appoint two ministers of agriculture, one for eastern Canada and one for western Canada.

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the hon. member?

**Mr. Pigeon:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, can the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm tell us whether he considers himself a bilingual person, as stipulated in the bill he is introducing?

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I must tell the hon. member for Carleton that I am not perfectly bilingual, but that I speak English well enough to make myself understood. If all English speaking civil servants in Canada were able to speak French as I speak English, that is well enough to be understood, I think that the situation would be greatly improved in this country.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. If I am not mistaken, he said a while ago that the present Minister of Justice stated in Toronto that he held the civil service commission responsible to a certain degree for separatism, did he not? In that case, is not the hon. member surprised to see