

heaven. I would remind hon. members that what we are dealing with now is not bilingualism but a more sinister move, a move to promote the use of one language in every area of federal activity. And this is being done with tax money provided by all Canadians. I have been accused of using scare tactics to force this House to initiate a serious examination of this whole question, without offering any proof of my claims that the situation is approaching the crisis stage. I am not using scare tactics. If the revelations scare some people, so much the better, because I am afraid for the future of Canada. I do not want backlash from English Canada to cancel out the progress made over the past 100 years in furthering French-English relations in our country.

• (1500)

Many, many conscientious people in our country are being duped by this government into supporting a program that is operating under false colours. There is no resemblance between what is being done now and what was proposed to this Parliament in 1966 in the way of bilingualism. It was never the intention of the majority of members of this House to downgrade the English language and English institutions in Canada in order to give prominence to all things French. Since the present Prime Minister has held power the use of the word "Royal" has all but disappeared from our institutions. We are told that the French find the use of the word objectionable. So we have departmental names that reflect the French idiom, and we are warned by Mr. Keith Spicer, the government's languages commissioner, that when he is finished making governments across the country bilingual, he is going after industry and other areas of activity.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, the languages commissioner—and I hope those who have interjected take note of this—has vindicated my stand, although I am sure he did not intend to do anything for me, nor did I ask him to do so, either. In spite of the fact that Mr. Spicer has been insisting that no one was suffering as a result of the languages policy, he announced on Thursday last that he favours moderation in the government's approach to bilingualism, and that efforts must be made to assist the casualties of the linguistic revolution. I, too, feel that those people must be vindicated, and also compensated. However, I cannot understand how anyone can say that there have not been any casualties, and then suggest publicly that those casualties should be compensated.

I note that the *Ottawa Citizen* for last Thursday carried a report which stated that Mr. Spicer said he favoured a little moderation in implementing the Official Languages Act. The report continued:

In a panel discussion at Seneca College, he said a recommendation in his second annual report will be for such moderation.

It will oppose over-zealous enforcement of the legislation, particularly as it affects civil servants caught in mid-career by the bilingualism drive.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must tell him that although the Chair has allowed him an extra four minutes the time allotted to him has expired. Unless he can get unanimous consent, he will be unable to continue his remarks. Does the House agree, that the hon. member should continue his remarks?

### *Speech from the Throne*

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may I thank hon. members for the privilege. May I just complete what Mr. Spicer said.

Mr. Spicer said efforts must be made "to assist the casualties of the linguistic revolution."

That is what I have been pointing out to this House since December 30.

He added that the anguish of civil servants caught up in it is "perfectly legitimate."

"We should be looking to exploit all the mechanisms of the language act to relieve the pressure," he said.

For example, he suggested holders of posts designated as needing bilingual expertise should be given six months' advance notice, to allow them to prepare for it.

The bilingual qualifications for a post also should be suspended for "anybody who has a legitimate claim to a job on the basis of technical competence."

That is the end of the quote from Mr. Spicer, and I thank him for vindicating my stand. The operations of the Public Service Employment Act are a further example of the fuzzy-headedness that has characterized the language policies and all other policies of the present power-oriented government. I serve notice on the government that I shall continue my fight against abuses of the languages act and the corruption of the Public Service Employment Act.

To those who work in the public service and to all of those who aspire to a public service career, I say that I will not abandon them, that I will fight civil service discrimination in the House of Commons and elsewhere, whether it be discrimination against English unilingualists or French unilingualists. My reason for that is fundamental, as it was at the beginning of my fight and always will be, namely to see that the youth of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington whom I have the honour to represent in this House have the same opportunity for employment in the public service as those from Lévis or Trois-Rivières.

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker—

**An hon. Member:** What will it be now?

**Mr. Corbin:** If you stay in the House you will hear. It is evident, Mr. Speaker, that the mood of the House today has turned sour, but the loyal opposition will have to answer for that. I am very reticent to speak under these circumstances, of which I am rather inclined to be ashamed as a Canadian. I hope that the Tory opposition will come to its senses, or show some form of responsible and constructive leadership soon in this House.

**Mr. McGrath:** We will; right after the next election.

**Mr. Corbin:** The sooner we get to an election the better, so the citizens of this country can deal with the promoters of this carnival that we have been witnessing from the other side of the House since this session commenced.

**Mr. Paproski:** Look who's talking.

**Mr. Corbin:** That is right. I have the floor, so you keep quiet.