

*Supply—Secretary of State*

more than 10 per cent. I would say that 33 per cent should be awarded bilingual telephone operators. Thirty three per cent of the members in this House of Commons speak French and want French to be recognized here as elsewhere.

How can the hon. member for Carleton deem it acceptable that telephone operators in the House of Commons be unable to answer in French when they are being spoken to in French.

Do you know when bilingualism includes French? When it is time to fill out income tax returns. If you fill out your income tax return and the government owes you money, send it in English. The money comes quickly. Send your income tax return in French and you must wait, perhaps a month, before you get your money. When you owe the government money, fill out your return in French: it will be a month before you have to pay.

Will the member for Carleton tell me that the officials of the Income Tax Division are competent, when one must wait a month, a month and a half longer if one writes in French instead of English?

Then would it not be appropriate to give a percentage of additional points to bilingual civil servants who have to deal with the public? If we want bilingualism to become a fact, civil servants in contact with the public will inevitably have to get a higher percentage for their competence, because they are bilingual and can speak and understand both languages.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the situation of the hon. member for Carleton. There are a great many civil servants in his riding. We cannot demand all civil servants to become bilingual overnight.

Although we ask for integral bilingualism, we do not want to break everything. There must be a period of evolution. When the day comes where our young people, in colleges and universities, know that additional credits are given for bilingualism in the civil service, then, our young people will learn French to be more "competent" when they enter the civil service.

It is an indication of competence when one can speak the two languages in a country like Canada. And this applies just as well to the French Canadians of the province of Quebec. When they know there will be more advantages, more points, if they speak the two languages, they too will realize, as will be realized in the other provinces, that in order to have more chances for promotion in the

civil service, they have to speak the two languages.

When we say 10 per cent, let us not disregard it. We complain that French Canadians are not sufficiently numerous in the civil service. Why? When French Canadians from Quebec, Montreal, Rouyn or Trois-Rivières, apply for a job in the civil service, if they want to get to the top, they have to be extremely good in English, although their mother tongue is French. They must be very qualified and able to speak English, just about flawlessly.

If they do not keep this in mind, they know, right from the start, that they will not reach the higher echelons of the civil service. This is evident by the distribution and the cross-section of officials found in the civil service.

Ministers, deputy ministers, directors of crown corporations, all of them practically speak only one language, English. We should like to facilitate the unity of our country, by having more French speaking officials who are asked, right from the start, to be qualified, because otherwise they would have no chance for promotion.

The difference between you and us is that we are not asking for that. We are not asking for officials who speak French only or French reports only. The difference between you and us is that we are asking for both French and English. I do not call that being fanatic.

The University of Ottawa had to declare itself a bilingual university to get grants from the province of Ontario. McGill University gets as much if not more in grants from the Quebec government and it never had to declare itself a bilingual university; in fact, it is an English university in the province of Quebec. The University of Ottawa, which was a French university and which tries to give a French education to the people of Ontario, was obliged to declare itself a bilingual university to get grants from the Ontario government.

We are not that fanatic in the province of Quebec. I am not taking the floor to ask that all high officials be French Canadians. We are asking that they be bilingual, that they speak both languages. Can one be more reasonable, more logical? Is it not showing goodwill to ask that they be bilingual? We are asking it from all those who deal with the public, who work on trains, for the income tax division, Air Canada, from all those who work for crown corporations, in departments, who deal