

*Official Languages*

neglecting economic problems and giving priority to questions like the Criminal Code and the language bill. This difficulty would not exist if there were a general feeling throughout the country, for example, in the Atlantic provinces and the west, that the government is paying adequate attention to the problems of the people. When there is a feeling of dissatisfaction and a feeling that there is a lack of consideration in respect of economic problems, this too can create national disunity. It is creating national disunity. The people of the Atlantic provinces, the people of the western provinces and the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Richardson) have been speaking about the neglect of their parts of the country.

Part of the problem the government has created, part of the reaction against this bill, results from the failure to convince the people in the many parts of the country, not just the Atlantic provinces and the west, that the government is earnest and is giving the necessary degree of priority to their economic problems. I cannot put too much stress upon the importance of the government grappling with these economic problems in an effort to convince the people in the country as a whole that the government is concerned about their economic problems. This conviction of neglect is unfortunately an important part of the context within which we are considering this bill.

● (12:40 p.m.)

I say in closing, sir, that matters affecting our ability to live together as a people, especially French speaking people and other Canadians, are of vital importance. We are all making a special effort and we must all make a special effort to understand each other. I assure you, sir, that in considering this bill we bear in mind that we are talking about something very close to the very fabric of our nation. It is in this sense that we will consider the bill. It is in this sense that I urge the house to send the bill to the committee and urge the committee to consider the matters I have mentioned in order that the bill can become as satisfactory and as effective as possible.

I urge the government in the name of this country to make a serious effort to explain to the people of Canada what this bill means, what it does not mean, and to give the assurances to this country which are necessary for the administration and implementation of this measure. After all, we are trying to create unity, not disunity.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE  
DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Before recognizing the hon. member for York South I might take this opportunity to advise the house as to the questions to be dealt with between four and five this afternoon pursuant to the special order made earlier this day. These questions are as follows and in this order: the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett)—Post Office Department; the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier)—Agriculture; the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—Trade; the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert)—housing, and the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell)—Saint John harbour fishing restrictions.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PROVISIONS RESPECTING STATUS AND USE—  
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER, ETC.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen (for the Prime Minister) that Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Special Committee on the Official Languages Bill.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of the subject we are debating I would personally be very grateful if I could make my remarks in one piece rather than in two pieces. I wonder whether there would be a disposition on the part of hon. members to permit me to call it one o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock this sitting stands suspended until two o'clock this afternoon.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I am also forced to begin my remarks this afternoon by protesting as vigorously as I can