

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

henceforth appoint to senior positions Canadians who assert themselves as bilingual, besides speaking the language of the accreditation country.

• (10:10 p.m.)

The minister should also try to appoint more French Canadians as ambassadors. The African and particularly the South American countries would appreciate such Canadian representatives, often because of a common Greco-Latin culture and the French language which is predominant in several of those countries. If the representatives we sent there speak only English, Canada is putting itself at a disadvantage in psychological and fraternal relations.

For example, I remember that in June 1966 the hon. minister for external affairs announced the appointment of nine high commissioners and ambassadors of whom only one, Mr. George-Marcel Olivier, appointed to Indonesia, was a French Canadian.

In this connection, the federal government should distribute foreign aid better and not favour almost exclusively the English speaking countries of the commonwealth.

Canadian foreign aid hardly reflects the bicultural character of our country. In 1965, of \$173 million given by Canada to underdeveloped countries, \$99 million went to Asian countries, belonging to the commonwealth. On the other hand, 19 African countries where French is spoken received only \$5.5 million from us in the form of gifts, and only \$2 million in loans. We gave nothing to South America and our loans to those countries did not exceed \$10 million.

These facts, Mr. Speaker, show the lack of effort by our government to extend Canadian bilingualism to our embassies, which is so necessary, and to encourage French-speaking countries materially.

I hope the hon. minister or his parliamentary secretary will recognize that the situation must be corrected and that he will announce some appropriate measures in a few moments.

**Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary of Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) deserves to be commended for the interest he takes in the important question of Canadian representation abroad. This representation, we all agree, should consist of the most able and the most representative personnel having in mind the cultural variety and richness of this country.

[Mr. Allard.]

It is no doubt because such a need has always been recognized that in the past the Department of External Affairs in its diplomatic service has reached, before most other government services, a high degree of bilingualism and of representation of our cultural variety. Of course, the need referred to by the hon. member for Sherbrooke is today, better than yesterday, universally recognized, and this permits renewed efforts which have been made and will continue to be made to improve the situation.

At the present time, from 20 to 25 per cent of the diplomatic officers with the Department of External Affairs have French as their mother tongue and 35 per cent are certainly fluently bilingual. Indeed, it may be said that 50 per cent or more of our officers are bilingual, including those who are in the process of becoming fully bilingual.

But no one wants to leave it at that. All the new recruits, of which there were 50 in 1966, who are not bilingual at the start of their service, are sent full-time, for four months, in the preliminary stages of their training, either to the French or the English schools of the Civil Service Commission. This applies to the middle as well as the higher echelons. Similarly, division or branch heads, are also sent either to schools of language in Ottawa, for full-time courses at St. Adèle or for a full year in Quebec city.

The member for Sherbrooke mentioned Canadian ambassadors to Latin America. He knows already that out of 13, five claim French as their mother tongue. In French-speaking Africa, Canada is represented in 15 countries, either directly or through non-resident accreditation, by eight heads of post, three of whom have French as their mother tongue and others are fully bilingual.

[English]

#### HOUSING—MEETING OF STUDY GROUPS RESPECTING SHORTAGE

**Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Labour whether, in view of the deteriorating housing situation in this country, the proposed symposiums across the country would be held sooner than anticipated in order that we might get action earlier than planned.

Let me say briefly, sir, that Canada's current housing shortage is a national disgrace. Our country is said to have the second highest economic standard of living in the world,