

Supply—Defence Production

represent—and God knows there are others—the whole area covered by the manpower center is taken into account. The act was so designed, and it was probably logical at the time. But I feel that the present situation no longer corresponds to the needs of the times.

To my mind, this policy should be revised and the designated areas should correspond to the new electoral districts.

I give as an example the case of Trois-Rivières to which have been annexed in the past rural municipalities affected by under-employment, but which are not recognized as designated areas even though they now form part of the new constituency of Saint-Maurice and that of Berthier, both recognized as designated areas.

I think the existing legislation should be reviewed so as to be more realistic and meet present day requirements. I shall stress this fact as briefly as possible and ask the minister to take note thereof. I warn him that I shall follow up my remarks.

There seems to be some inconsistency that borders on unfairness towards those municipalities affected by under-employment and which, because a neighbouring municipality is not so affected, are deprived of the advantage of being considered as designated areas. Whereas a large number of industries would settle on the outskirts of the metropolis of the Mauricie, that is the city of Trois-Rivières, if they could enjoy the same benefits, those industries now have to settle instead 18 or 20 miles away in municipalities which are almost overcrowded and which will be unable shortly to give them the municipal services they need.

I will give more details to the minister in the correspondence I will exchange with him within a few days, but I call his attention to this matter and I ask him to be kind enough to see it as something which, in my opinion, deserves special consideration, because the case I mentioned concerns my constituency, although I know that the same situation prevails also in others. That is my first point.

My second remark, Mr. Chairman, concerns more specifically the printing bureau.

I would like to point out to the minister that there is now a strong presumption that the whole legislation for the establishment of bilingualism in the federal government services is being opposed at the level of heads of services in several departments. I could mention many departments, but I forget them on

[Mr. Mongrain.]

purpose because to-night, we are dealing with the Department of Defence Production. I want to mention only the case which is the minister's concern.

I think that the legislation, as proposed by the government, is commendable and praiseworthy. According to that legislation, bilingualism must be a factual thing in government services having to deal with people of both languages. I realize that the government has taken some constructive steps such as, for instance, the establishment of language schools, but one can see that there is some resistance at the division head level, and I shall mention a specific case in order that what I mean may be well understood.

Last week, on March 11 and 12 to be exact, the Canadian Government Printing Bureau, in order to fill a vacancy, announced a competition for the position of deputy chief of production, commanding a maximum yearly salary of \$15,931, which is quite respectable. I know that at the printing bureau, some 65 per cent of the employees are French-speaking and that 95 per cent of them are bilingual, for we in Quebec have been learning English for a good many years.

Now, the fact is—the official announcement has not been made yet, but I was informed through certain indiscretions—that somebody has already been unofficially appointed to the position. According to the information we have he has been designated for 6 or 7 months. He has been groomed for the post, he was advised to undertake certain courses in order to qualify, and this is done in many departments. It seems that the person who will be officially appointed in a few days is English-speaking only, hardly understanding French and unable in practice to speak it, whereas there were a few other perfectly bilingual applicants with as many years of experience.

Let it be well understood that I do not wish to object because he has an English name; I even wonder if he is English. I have the name here, but I shall not mention it, in order not to prejudice his interests; it looks rather German to me, but that matters little. However, to ensure that policy of the government on bilingualism is consistent and not only window-dressing, it would be necessary, when there is an opening for a bilingual candidate, that the latter should be truly so.

Now, I note that in the qualifications required for that position—once again it is a