

tion of this country's population and find the way to fulfil the demand submitted by the hon. member for Chambly-Verchères.

Once more, it seems to me that the Government through the hon. the Acting Premier, have no excuse for asking any delay; we should immediately be promised that the matter will be adjusted and every body satisfied. I am fully confident we shall obtain justice.

Mr. P. F. CASGRAIN (Charlevoix-Montmorency) (translation): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to detain the attention of the House very long, after the few speeches we have heard, and especially after the clear and precise remarks made by the hon. member for Chambly-Verchères (Mr. Archambault), supported by the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. D'Anjou), there is nothing for me to do but to endorse and subscribe fully to every one of the statements contained in the motion before the House. If I do not often speak in French in the House, the reason is that, as my hon. friend the member for Chambly-Verchères stated, in many cases the members of the Government and those who support them cannot understand us when we speak in that language and that the speeches made in French are not translated immediately, with the result that our claims cannot have the same effect when only made known to the hon. members of the right four, five or six months later.

I believe that the Government should not rest content with only saying "we will remedy this state of things by making an investigation and finding out what can be done." That is a pretty vague and evasive answer; and it is the one which is very frequently given us in this House. I would prefer to hear the leader of the Government tell us now what he intends to do. With an investigation, with a commission, it will mean further delays, and we will reach the end of the session, and perhaps the end of this Parliament, before anything is done. I would therefore ask the Government to fully consider the question and tell us presently what we are to expect.

Mr. C. P. POWER (Quebec-South): Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to join the hon. members for Chambly-Verchères (Mr. Archambault), and for Rimouski (Mr. d'Anjou) as well as the other French Canadian and Acadian hon. members, who have asked that in this Canadian House of Commons the beautiful French language be treated with equity. Their claims I consider to be just and reasonable.

[Mr. Fontaine.]

Mr. Speaker, as a citizen of the province of Quebec, as one of those who have always lived among the people of the same origin as these gentlemen, I desire to express my most thorough sympathy with resolution of the hon. member for Chambly-Verchères. As was stated a moment ago by the hon. member for Queens-Shelburne (Mr. Fielding), it should rather belong to us, the English speaking members of this House, to claim the right to read—since we cannot always understand—what is said so well and sometimes with so much eloquence by our French-speaking colleagues.

I understand that beside the reasons given by my hon. friend the Acting Prime Minister (Sir George Foster), there may be legitimate excuses for the failure of the Government and the ministers to have the remarks made in the French language in this House printed on the following day.

I trust that the Acting Prime Minister and those having charge of the matter will attend to it as soon as possible, in order that in future the speeches delivered in French be immediately translated, and that the English-speaking members may as early as possible appreciate the intelligence, the eloquence and I would say the erudition of our French-speaking colleagues.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I very much regret that my command of the beautiful French language is not sufficient to enable me to reply to some of the very able deliverances that we have listened to this afternoon, but as chairman of the Debates Committee I shall be very glad to call a meeting to discuss the merits of the suggestion made by my hon. friend from Chambly and Verchères (Mr. Archambault) if the matter is referred to the committee as suggested by the Acting Prime Minister (Sir George Foster). It must be evident, however, to hon. members that if the resolution were adopted and put into force immediately, it would be impossible to publish the Unrevised edition of Hansard at the time it is now published. It now reaches hon. members about ten o'clock in the morning, but if all the speeches were to be translated, and especially if during a debate a number of hon. members spoke in the French language, it would be impossible to have the unrevised edition placed in the hands of hon. members at ten o'clock the following morning. However, the members of the Debates Committee—I am sure I can speak for them—will give the matter careful consideration when it comes before them.