

management, for the support of schools organized and carried on in accordance with the law of the province.

I would like to quote now from the interim report of the Manitoba Royal Commission on Education of 1958. On page 39, after reference is made to the public schools, the last four lines read as follows:

In addition, there are a number of private and parochial schools which are inspected by the province and are by law required to provide education "equal to the standard of the public schools in the province"....

That requirement is found in section 6(1) of the School Attendance Act of the province of Manitoba.

I respectfully submit that those schools which are subject to inspection by the Government, and which are obliged to comply with the requirements of the education acts in Manitoba, are schools organized and carried on in accordance with the law of the province. If in the interpretation of various acts there is affirmation that the French-speaking Catholic minority in Manitoba has strictly no legal rights at this moment, then I shall try to plead their case from the aspect of justice and equity and, in other words, invoke what I would call their moral rights.

Whether there be a Catholic minority and Protestant majority, or whether there be, as in Quebec, a situation to the contrary, we the minority and, in particular, we the Catholic minority, are convinced that we are obliged to give our children in every part of this wonderful land of ours, and we are entitled to give them the kind of education which we are convinced should be given to them.

We say that from the national point of view a very unhappy situation is created when there is a feeling of grievance, which has existed for a long time and which continues to exist in the minorities of the various provinces. It started back in 1865 in New Brunswick, I think, and we had the same difficulty in practically all of the other provinces.

I wish to appeal to the sense of fairness of the majority, and say that although we believe in provincial rights, as I do, we must realize the importance of not creating among the 6,000,000 French-speaking Canadians the belief that they are the victims of what I would call a very unfortunate situation.

I understand that in the final report of the MacFarlane Commission, which is the report to which I referred a few minutes ago, there was a recommendation to the effect that an amount equivalent to 80 per cent of

that given per pupil to the public school, should be given to the parochial school. If the cost per pupil in the public school is \$100, which is the amount granted by the Manitoba Legislature, then an amount of \$80 should be granted for each pupil attending a parochial school, provided, I repeat, that that school conforms to the standards set by the Government.

The legislation before us, in a certain sense, will not change the situation financially, for the parochial schools were not receiving anything from the Government by way of a subsidy. I submit, however, that those funds were transferred to the Prairie provinces as trust funds, and it seems to me that the parliamentary control over those funds, which still exists to some extent on behalf of the Canadian Parliament, is not in any way a serious encroachment upon the rights of the provinces. The provinces now have quite a wide scope of investments which they can make, and even if these were enlarged or made discretionary, I would trust the various governments to do their duty and use the money for educational purposes. But now we are completely dispensing them from the obligation to use the money for educational purposes. I say we can never spend too much for education, which is the most precious of all gifts. If the funds in question cease to be trust funds, then the French-speaking Canadian minority in those provinces is convinced it will be the first to suffer, and that its chances of obtaining grants from the three legislatures in question will become, so to speak, absolutely illusory, in that it will have no reasonable opportunity to do so.

Honourable senators, by way of conclusion I should like to state that in my opinion it is the duty of this house to endeavour to protect not only the strictly legal rights but even the moral rights of minority groups.

I should like to paraphrase some comments from a speech delivered by Honore Mercier in the House of Commons on May 14, 1873. He said that the cause of the minority is also our cause, that their prayer is our prayer, and that it is not only the French-speaking minority of the Prairie provinces but also that it is the majority of French-speaking Canadians and of Catholics who unite their voice to that of those minorities. I submit it is also the ardent desire, and even the right, of the population of Quebec to be heard by the Protestant minority. The French-speaking majority in Quebec has always been generous toward the English-speaking Protestant minority in that province. We have no special merit on that point, for it would be for us grossly unjust to act otherwise. Moreover, to do so would be acting in a manner which would