

You must make a distinction between the accessory and the principal. Here, sir, the principal is the additional guarantee given to the French language and the sanction of rights unceasingly claimed during many years. The accessory is how, when, and by whom translations will be carried out.

I shall close my remarks by an appeal to my compatriots on the other side of the house and to the French Canadian press. I say to them: if my reasoning is wrong, keep on the fight. But if I am right I beg of them, on behalf of the cause which is dear to us, to cease firing on their own troops.

Mr. ARTHUR DENIS (St. Denis) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I closely followed the speech delivered by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré). His statement displayed much enthusiasm and, I think, sincerity, however, as he is only one in the cabinet, I am afraid that his influence and patriotism will make no change whatever in the methods prevailing since confederation, in the various departments in connection with translation. I do not intend to discuss his statement or the purport of section 133 of the British North America Act, from a legal angle. The spirit of this act exists since confederation, and if, in the past, translation has been delayed in the various departments, it is due to the negligence and antipathy of certain deputy ministers, not to say of ministers themselves, in transmitting immediately to translators the reports to be translated.

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. DENIS (Translation): I do not think that this bill will in any way change the mentality existing in the various departments, and force the deputy ministers, as well as the ministers, to transmit the reports sooner to this bureau for translations. This bill was submitted to the house, in my opinion, at a time when our efforts are required to obtain unity, collaboration and union of the two great races in this country; I, therefore, think that to obtain such results this bill should have been postponed a few years more. We need cooperation and unity, if we are to judge from the views expressed by French Canadian public societies of Quebec, which we must admit, must be able to understand the purpose of an act. It is not because we have heard in this house French Canadian members argue in favour of this bill that we must conclude that it is to the advantage of the French Canadian race.

The hon. Solicitor General, so as not to differ in opinion with his colleagues, was

forced to make the statement he did. As to the views of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), I think, he is out of date. He dislikes to mingle with the crowds and rather seeks small parties so as to better shine.

This bill will not improve the translation of the various departments. All depends on the good intentions of ministers and deputy ministers and the standing in which the French language is held by each department. If delays have occurred in the past, they will, I think, perhaps, occur still more in the future, because reports will have to be transmitted from departments where they have been prepared and then sent to the bureau.

I was amazed to see such a bill introduced in the house. The improvement suggested by the hon. Solicitor General could have been carried out in each department without upsetting the whole system and preventing a large number of French Canadians, in various departments, from profiting of the promotions due to them on account of their efficient services.

So far as efficiency, I do not think that a translator placed under one minister, in particular, and centralized can possibly make a more efficient and perfect translation. I think that is fooling oneself and endeavouring to make the people believe that this bill was introduced with the idea of improving translation and affording to the French Canadians a greater protection and fair play. A number of French Canadian members opposite rely on the word of the Secretary of State and on the bill itself; however, we of the opposition have a better knowledge of what took place in the past, in the departments as regards translations, and we are aware that, in the future, even with the centralization of translators, the same thing will happen. Our rights and our language in parliament and the departments have been respected because we have insisted, fought for them. Thanks to such means we were able to obtain some satisfaction as to the respect due to our rights.

More than ever, the majority in this country, must make it a duty to respect the rights which the French Canadians were given under the constitution.

Because of this respect of our rights, we must have unity of action in the administration of this country, without which, we are all destined to perish. We must live as brothers, but in order to obtain that end, we must respect our mutual rights. By this bill, the centralization of translators, one replaces an evil by another; that is all. One