

(Text)

Mr. ROCK: That means two being French-speaking Canadians.

Mr. CARON: It means Canadians of French expression.

(Translation)

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Caron seconded by Mr. Beaulé moves that section 7 be amended by adding: and that two of them should be French-speaking Canadians.

Mr. CARON: That is correct: a French-speaking Canadian.

(Text)

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment will read, in my humble translation: "Section 7—after the word 'company', add the words 'two of which shall be French-speaking Canadians,'"

Mr. CARON: "Of French expression".

Mr. ROCK: No, when you use the term in French "of French expression" you usually say "Canadien français".

Mr. HAHN: Are we free to speak now on this motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HAHN: I think this motion is very bad on two counts. First of all, we should not try to legislate this sort of matter. I think as has been mentioned earlier that for us to try to protect—if you want to use that word—a minority in the country by legislation of this type is wrong. Secondly, I think the legislation is impractical. How do you define in a court of law whether someone is French speaking? How many words do you have to speak to be classified as French speaking?

I think the legislation is meaningless if we try to put in these words. I think public pressure, sentiment and so on is the means of ensuring fair treatment for both races in the country. I think this is happening now. I do not know of any other legislation where we have legislated this sort of thing, and I think it would be a bad precedent. I am opposed to it.

(Translation)

Mr. CANTIN: This amendment is not acceptable, Mr. Chairman, first of all because it seems to be entirely contrary to the human rights declaration as it is defined here in Parliament, and also because it constitutes discrimination instead of ensuring participation. So I submit that it is entirely contrary to the rules and should not be accepted.

(Text)

Mr. ROCK: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Caron is right and so is Mr. Beaulé. I feel that although there has always been a trend forward saying that French-speaking Canadians should get higher positions, somehow they have not obtained those positions in the past; and there has always been the inference that it has not been possible to find competent men to take these positions. I do not believe this to be a fact. I believe that throughout Canada there must be many French-speaking Canadians who should obtain higher positions within Canada, and it seems that in the past they have not done so.

I am completely for this protection.

Mind you, if someone says we are out of order because this is a certain type of company being formed, let us consider the fact that first of all Canadian National Railways belong to the people of Canada or are supposed to belong to the people of Canada, and in this regard we do legislate anything that Canadian National Railways are supposed to do in the future. For instance, we are the legislators of anything that railway companies do, and in respect