

there is no future. I agree. But what is the business of confederation all about on the fiscal front, the civil rights front and all fronts, unless an aggrieved minority can come to mother whenever it has a problem?

My good friend and colleague, the hon. member for Maison-neuve-Rosemont, made an eloquent statement with respect to what happens to a nation if it does not respect minority language rights. I hope he will agree with me that the crisis of language rights in respect of a minority in Quebec is as serious today as it was in 1895 in the province of Manitoba, where Francophone rights were very abruptly, unjustly and wrongly abused by the government of the day.

I know there are others who will participate in this debate, and I realize the Speech from the Throne gave a general outline on the matters we should be concerned about. I should like to refer briefly to two or three matters which give me concern. The Speech from the Throne of September 30, 1974, reads in part as follows:

Amendments will be proposed to the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

The Speech from the Throne of October 12, 1976, reads in part as follows:

Measures will be proposed to improve the collective bargaining system in the public service, to reduce the adversarial nature of the process and to ensure an equitable relationship between compensation levels in the public and private sectors.

In 1974, the Finkelman report was made public. It was an excellent document prepared by the former chairman of the Public Service Staff Relations Board. It was referred to a joint committee of this House and the other place. A report was brought down in January, 1976, recommending very extensive improvements to the Public Service Staff Relations Act. Then, when we had a strike of the air traffic controllers this summer, this House had to legislate to bring them back to work.

I did not participate in that debate because I had to wrestle with my conscience on the balance of responsibility, whether I should participate, extend the debate and extend the strike, or whether I should defer my comments to a later date. I chose the latter. There will be more strikes, there will be more disruptions, and there will be more trouble if the government does not come to grips with the Public Service Staff Relations Act and the Public Service Employment Act.

On February 4, 1977, the president of the privy council made a statement to this House announcing a special inquiry on the Public Service Employment Act. I have endeavoured to catch Your Honour's eye in order to ask questions relating to whether a chairman has been appointed to this special inquiry. It is now 8½ months later. There were two individuals named: the one on the official side was Mr. Brittain, and the one on the employees' side was Mr. Davidge. I have had no indication of any public hearings or activity. This inquiry is long overdue.

I should like to say a word or two about the National Capital Commission. In 1974, we had the benefit of two reports prepared by Mr. Douglas Fullerton, a former chairman of the National Capital Commission. These were extensive as a result of an inquiry conducted at public expense. While I did not agree with the conclusions, I felt the analysis was exhaus-

tive and the point of view was refreshing. The hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) found the bulk of the recommendations to his liking. While I had some differences, I respected the very careful work and preparation which had taken place.

That report was referred to a special joint committee of this House and the other place. The committee held very extensive hearings. The Premier of Nova Scotia appeared before the committee as a witness, as did the finance minister of Saskatchewan, other provincial cabinet ministers, heads of regional governments, and, representations of all regional councils. There were public hearings with citizens' committees. That committee undertook to do an extensive and thorough job, but unfortunately it completed its hearings close to the end of the session.

It is my sincere hope that the committee will be reconstituted in order that it can prepare a report for the government. The government could stand just a little advice as to what could be done to improve relationships among regional municipalities, provincial authorities, provincial members of parliament and federal members of parliament. Some of us who have observed events over a period of time have views as to how matters can be improved. I have the honour of representing Ottawa West. There are problems in that constituency as well as in neighbouring constituencies.

I am referring to a problem in adjusting to a series of moves which appear not to have been too well co-ordinated. In 1975, the report of the National Capital Commission suggested that 25,000 jobs would be moved out of the Ottawa-Hull region as part of the government's decentralization program. That program has been implemented in various stages. There was the recent announcement by the new Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) indicating perhaps the latest stage in this program. In addition, there is the relocation to Hull. Perhaps 15,000 to 20,000 positions are being moved to that city. The net result has been the abandonment of some six million square feet of office space in the city of Ottawa, two million square feet of which represented temporary structures which could be demolished, and four million square feet of which was privately leased accommodation. That accommodation is now available at bargain rates for office and commercial accommodation for anyone who wants to locate in the national capital.

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On top of this we have restraint on the hiring of public servants, which is long overdue and perfectly justified, there is no question about it. But what does the National Capital Commission advise, with all these streams of information in its hands—the body with the experts, the body whose duty it is to advise the government what to do? Its advice is to go ahead with two satellite communities of 100,000 people each, one in the Carlsbad region, in the southeastern section of the city, and the other in the Aylmer region in Quebec, with a transportation corridor linking them.

They published a document called "Invitation to Dialogue". Dialogue should have taken place between one arm of the NCC and another arm before they published the document,