

*Official Languages*

minority language which, within the definition of the amendment, is a language other than French or English.

**Mr. Lewis:** After the province has passed legislation.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** After the province has passed legislation. First of all, we believe this paragraph of the amendment is out of context in that the bill deals with official languages and this amendment deals with those languages that are not official. Further, it contemplates federal legislation in a matter dealing with education which might well, if spelled out within the context of this bill, involve us in a constitutional problem.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is always open to the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier), in the course of the administration of his department, to enter into an agreement to enhance the natural development of any cultural or minority group in this country. We believe that imposing this type of structure goes beyond the scope of the bill and would trespass in rather specific terms on educational matters.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Would the minister permit a question?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I will be finished in about 30 seconds. If this legislation receives the approval of the house, we count on the co-operation of hon. members to dispel any misunderstanding, particularly in western Canada, that there is anything discriminatory in its provisions relating to any cultural or language group in this country. We believe that clause 38 grants a blanket, over-all, complete protection to any Canadian in this country whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, and does it in a positive, categorical way, whereas the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Peace River is more restrictive, is narrower, might well trespass on difficult constitutional ground and would not achieve the results he hopes to achieve but rather would provoke more questions than answers.

[Translation]

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** I would like to ask a question relating to the second part of the amendment.

Does the minister want to suggest that the federal government would interfere in an area of provincial jurisdiction, namely education, were a province to decide the adoption of legislation relating to education, and more

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

precisely to languages other than French and English? Would the federal government interfere directly in the field of education if, after such legislation is passed, it were to conclude agreements in order to help that province offer to other minorities a better education in a language which is neither English nor French? Is the minister of the opinion that such action on the part of the federal government would amount to interference in a provincial jurisdiction, since the provincial legislation would already have been passed?

• (4:30 p.m.)

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** That depends again on the terms of the agreement between the province and the federal government. I cannot anticipate all the circumstances, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a question because many members of parliament have received letters from Canadian Indians whose native tongue is not one of the official languages. Some of these people, particularly in the province of Quebec, are concerned because rightly or wrongly the missionary penetration in these areas has been by English speaking people, so they speak their native tongue and the English language but do not speak French. They are a little worried about this. In view of the terms of this bill and the fact that the affairs of the Indians are being turned over holus-bolus, to the provinces, they are concerned that perhaps there is to be a different kind of penetration in this area.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** That is a good question.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** The question is so hypothetical I have difficulty answering it.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** It is not hypothetical to the Indians.

**Mr. Woolliams:** The minister says it is hypothetical, but with the greatest respect I say the Indians do not think that. Does the minister expect that an Indian who speaks a native tongue would have to change to English or French, particularly the senior Indians? Is there any thought that they will have to switch languages?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** If I remember and understand the declaration of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern