



**SINCLAIR STEVENS**

**REPORTS**

SINCLAIR STEVENS MP  
YORK SIMCOE

**Trudeau Should Challenge Quebec's Insistence On French Only**

SINCLAIR STEVENS COL.

It is time for the Trudeau Government to take a stand on the new Quebec Language Act. The legislation is now law and it will remain law unless it is successfully challenged in the Supreme Court of Canada.

The federal government, on behalf of all Canadians, is the most appropriate body to take the lead in having this dangerously divisive matter reviewed by the highest court in our land. It is not enough to expect another province — such as New Brunswick or private citizens, corporations or associations to challenge the Act. The federal government must stand up and be counted.

What exactly does the federal government mean by bilingualism and biculturalism if they allow this type of legislation — which proclaims French the only official language in Quebec — to remain uncontested.

Commenting on the Quebec draft legislation, during the last election, Prime Minister Trudeau said:

"It has never been federal government policy to impose the use of one or other of the official languages on anyone in Canada. On the contrary, it has left each person the free choice of which official language he or she wishes to use."

At that time the Prime Minister stated:

"The Government of Canada is studying in detail the contents of the Language Bill which has just recently been made public. It is pleased to note that Premier Bourassa has invited all Quebecers to make known their views on this proposed piece of legislation before proceeding any further on it, and that Mr. Bourassa has stated clearly that he is willing to receive any suggestions which will be made."

But immediately after the federal election, Premier Bourassa refused to allow the Quebec National Assembly Committee, reviewing the bill, to hear any more evidence or to receive delegations. He then pushed the Act through the Assembly by using closure.

Friday, August 9, Liberal Senator Eugene Forsey, a constitutional expert, said the law making French the province's only official language, directly interferes with federal government powers.

"Some parts of the bill are of very doubtful constitutional validity" he said. In his opinion Quebec went beyond its constitutional powers in at least four areas but added that only a test in the courts would settle the question.

In July, seven faculty members in the Law School at McGill University issued a statement in which they said the legislation undermined the "concept of two cultures in Quebec. It employs coercive measures to impose the French language on, and government control over, some of the chief institutions through which English culture in the province lives and grows. It thus implies a rejection of the notion of equal partnership as recommended by the B & B Commission and now accepted by the federal government and all federal political parties."

The professors said the

**Region Lady Mayor First Vice-President Ont. Municipalities**

Veteran York municipal politician and region council planning committee chairman, Mayor Mrs. Gladys Rolling of East Gwillimbury Township, has been elected first vice-president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. This puts her in line for the association presidency next year. She is one of York Region's three lady mayors.

The association represents 700 municipalities including regions, districts and counties.

A member of East Gwillimbury Council for 14 years, Mrs. Rolling recently became a grandmother. She served as councillor, deputy reeve, reeve and mayor since 1971. Last year she was one of the two elected vice-presidents of the association, thus serving on the provincial-municipal liaison committee. This committee provides a line of communication between Queen's Park and local governments.

Dealing with the constitutionality of some of the proposed measures the submission states: "Section 1 which provides that French is 'the official language of the province of Quebec' is misleading in that it suggests that English is not also an official language in Quebec, which it is by virtue of Section 133 of the BNA Act and the federal Official Languages Act. Section 133 of the BNA Act provides for two official languages in the legislature (in debates, the records and journals and the printing and publication of statutes) and in the pleadings and processes of the courts in the province of Quebec. No legislation in the National Assembly proclaiming French the sole official language in the province can affect these bilingual areas protected by the BNA Act. It is clear that Section 133 is entrenched in the fundamental law of the Constitution and cannot be changed without amending the BNA Act itself."

The law professors challenge the Act on several other constitutional grounds. If the Trudeau Government has taken no effective action on this important matter by September 30, the day Parliament opens, they will certainly come under fire for their indifferent attitude to the trampling of the rights of a minority group in Quebec.

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**WEDNESDAY, THE 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1974,**  
at the hour of ten o'clock (local time) in the forenoon, at the Markham Arena located at Hwys. No. 48 & 7, in the Town of Markham for the hearing of an application for a:  
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If you do not attend and are not represented at this hearing, the Board may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings.

In the event the decision is reserved persons taking part in the hearing may request a copy of the decision from the presiding Board Member. Such decisions will be mailed to you when available.

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