

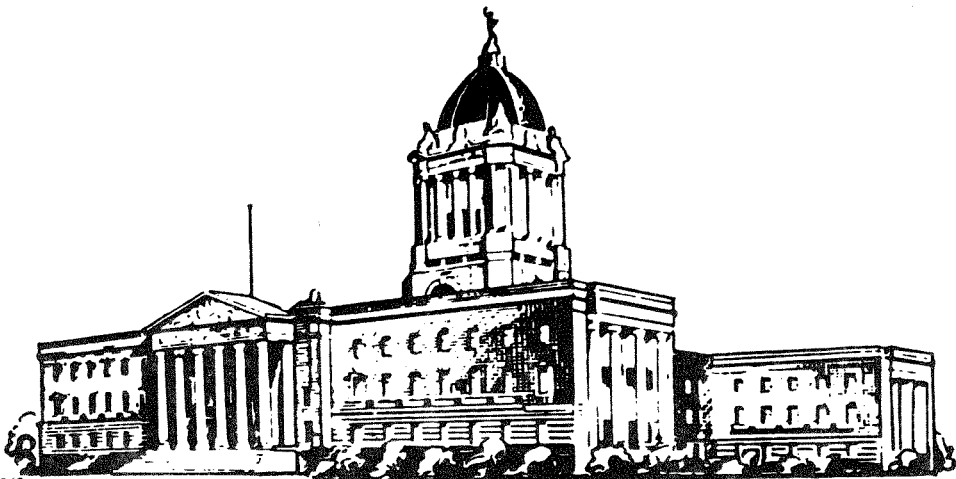


Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31-32 Elizabeth II

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authority of
The Honourable D. James Walding
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virten	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, Hon. John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 4 August, 1983.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . . Oral Questions

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, in keeping with our undertaking to the government, the opposition is prepared to forego their right to question period this evening.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the referral motion with respect to the Section 23 amendment. I'm giving you the shortened version now.

DEBATE ON MOTIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RE: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, the amendment thereto proposed by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, and the proposed sub-amendment by the Honourable Member for Arthur, the Honourable Member for Virden has five minutes remaining.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that today has been a strange day in the democratic process in the Province of Manitoba. We have seen the Minister of Highways present a brief to the committee on the Crow issue, ignoring completely the advice of the people of Manitoba; ignoring the advice of a committee of the Legislature that was set up specifically to investigate and to report to the Legislature, and presenting his own biased, narrow, pig-headed view of what this province needs in the Crow issue.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we saw another group in society, the trustees of the Province of Manitoba, wishing to meet with members of the Assembly, and in particular the Minister of Education, and she refused to meet with them claiming that Speed-up was the reason she could not meet with them.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to sit down in a couple of minutes and give her an opportunity to get involved in the debate to prove to the trustees that

she was here and taking part in debate in Speed-up, and I offer her the floor in a couple of minutes if she wants to get involved. But it's surprising, Mr. Speaker, how this government does not want to listen to people, refuses to take the advice of people and then - and I promised this before I sat in the Session this afternoon - I promised I would spend a couple of minutes on the remarks of the Honourable Member for Springfield.

The Honourable Member for Springfield attempted to lecture this House on what they should be doing. Mr. Speaker, he was wrong on his interpretation of the role of the opposition; he was wrong on what he saw as the government's role in their mandate, and he considered it to be an absolute mandate. Mr. Speaker, when I was Speaker of this House, the Honourable Member for Springfield tendered his resignation as Assistant Clerk of this House. Based on the judgment that he offered to this House today, I should have followed the advice of President Truman and refused to accept his resignation - and turned around and fired him.

Mr. Speaker, the advice that the Honourable Member for Springfield offered to this House was one that left only two choices to the people of Manitoba. He said that the choice left was a choice between communism and fascism. Again, the Member for Springfield is half wrong. There is a choice. There is a choice in this province between communism and democracy and we on this side of the House represent democracy in action. So, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Honourable Member for Springfield, who many consider to be a wit, again I say that they are only half right.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, I tremble to follow in the wake of that witty and perceptive and statesmanlike speech by the former Speaker of this Legislature who didn't indulge in personality attacks, but rather stuck to the issue, stuck to the sub-amendment. Did you notice? He didn't even talk to the sub-amendment. He talked about the Minister of Agriculture, attacking the Minister of Agriculture, attacking the Minister of Highways, attacking the Member for Springfield. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if that was the type of conduct, and he did reflect that type of conduct as a Speaker, it's a wonder that everyone didn't want to resign at that particular stage.

Mr. Speaker, no one fired the Speaker of the Legislature of the previous administration. It was the people who fired the Speaker of the Legislature in the previous administration, speaking in a democratic way, Mr. Speaker. We will accept the will of the people. We wouldn't want to go out and try and subvert the will of the people, Mr. Speaker. That is a major difference between the people on this side of the House and the people on that side of the House. They believe that, no matter what the people voted on in November of 1981, somehow they are the divine rulers of this province and that is not the case.

It is interesting to note the tactics that they are using. I rise to speak on one of the most perceptive sub-amendments I have ever seen introduced in this Legislature. It taxed the mind of the Member for Arthur. He dug deep. He dug deep, and he said, I'm going to change this sub-amendment so that it says, instead of December 31, 1983, it'll say, December 30, 1983. So indeed, Mr. Speaker, given the profound depth of that person's wisdom, I believe that they should launch him for leadership. He certainly is showing a touch that some of the others haven't.

A MEMBER: How many days does December have?

HON. R. PENNER: We're waiting for your decision.

HON. W. PARASIUK: That's right. I am waiting. I expect that the next sub-amendment, possibly for the Member for Lakeside although I think he has a touch more intelligence, might be for December 29. Then the Member for Turtle Mountain, with his Turtle Mountain arithmetic, might come in with the December 28th, and gradually I expect that we'll have a meeting of the minds. They'll work their amendments of amendments down to something like September 5th, and I guess they'll filibuster to September 5th, and we'll arrange a meeting of the minds. Unless, of course, they forget about what's happening and they will say that we should have this Legislature reporting no later than August 4th or August 3rd even though we might have passed those dates.

It's an interesting thing to see what's at work on the other side. It is called by a lot of people the big lie technique. I'm talking about the technique. The technique is that if you tell a mistruth or an untruth often enough, you hope that someone will believe it. It's interesting because they have all gotten up this afternoon and said that it's the New Democrats who don't want to hear the people. Yet we have a sub-amendment, this perceptive sub-amendment, which changes it from December 31st to December 30th, which is set up expressly for the purpose of denying the people of Manitoba the right to come before the Legislature.

They weren't even very creative in their sub-amendment. They had to take the simplest form of obstructionist sub-amendment, changing it from December 31st to December 30th, and conceivably if one follows that logic, December 29th - all to subvert the right of the people of Manitoba to come before a legislative committee. That is the fact. It is a New Democratic Party Government that wants to go out to the people and it's the Conservative opposition that is stopping this Legislature from doing that.

Yet the Conservatives get up one after the other and say we have to listen to the people. Well, let's listen to the people. Let's go out as a committee and listen to the people. But they do not want to listen to the people in open discussion with Hansard there and with recorders there; they would rather do the whisper campaign. They would rather talk a lot of mistruths about what's being talked about than come before an open Assembly with recordings of what is said, and discuss the issue in an open and statesmanlike manner. At a time when the province calls for statesmanship, what do we get from the Conservatives? The scratching

of prejudice so epitomized by the Dan McKenzies of that side. I would have thought that we could get from that side people who would have gotten up consistently and put a position forward saying, we want to hear the people, we're willing to go out to hear the people; if we disagree we're going to come back to the House and make our objections known and do what we have to do if we believe in this at that particular stage. That position would at least have some integrity to it. But to go out and say, we want to hear from the people, but we won't let you hear from the people and therefore we're going to condemn you because you won't go out and hear from the people, has no integrity whatsoever.

I thought that we could have had some statesmanship. For awhile there we had some speeches from the Member for Lakeside, had a speech from the Member for Fort Garry, the Member for St. Norbert. I thought that it might have been possible from those speeches to have what I would consider a moderate position put forward by the Conservative Party, one that says, yes, we'll try and hear from all people from all walks of life, consider their opinions and then make our judgments known.

That's one position that I thought might come to the surface on that side of the House, but you have another streak of Conservatism - it's extremism - that's one of the reasons why they didn't win the 1981 election. They move over there and they sit there and say, we know what's right from the beginning. We adopt our position and we'll scratch every prejudice possible and it's interesting that some of the heckling coming from the other side is coming from a person who I think is moving into that camp and has moved very solidly into that camp during the course of this Session.

I would have thought that the people on the other side would have pondered what their future might be because this is a very important challenge for them, not only on this issue, but on a whole set of other issues as to what position they want to take within the political spectrum of Manitoba. We have the Member for Turtle Mountain and some other people wanting to move this party, that party there, more and more to the right, thinking that there might be some swing to the right; thinking that there are some other right-wing governments in North America; thinking that that's the way to go.

Now, if that's the way in which they want to go, I think it's a sad thing for Canada; I think it's a sad thing for Manitoba, but it's a good thing for us in a partisan way, but frankly, I think they should consider what they are doing. I think they should consider what they're doing because the strategy they've been following has indeed been a particular narrow strategy, tactics first put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, now being emulated by what, I guess, is the stretch version of the Leader of the Opposition; being followed by a number of people, but I'm not sure that there is consensus on that.

I say that there is an important choice facing the Conservatives. I wish they would ponder it. I wish they would ponder what position they want to take forward. Do they want to come forward and say that they want to hear from the people, because if they put that position forward, why bring in silly amendments like they brought in? Why bring in silly amendments that have no purpose other than to serve as obstructions, and then get up

and frankly filibuster hour after hour? You can see some of the techniques. They are passing around speeches which all of them are reading. They are congratulating each other and there are a few that get great handclaps when they manage to last 40 minutes.

Is that what the Conservatives want? Is that what they want? Do they want to go before the people or do they want to filibuster? Because if they want to filibuster, they'll bring in the December 30th sub-amendment, and they want to call an election. Four years in a term, but these democrats on the other side want to call an election.

We have said very clearly to the people of Manitoba, because that side doesn't want to listen, Mr. Speaker, we want to go out and hear the public. We are willing to meet the public throughout Manitoba. We are willing to take sufficient time to hear them clearly. We are willing to discuss with them. We are willing to consider their views. That is what the New Democratic Party is putting forward and has put forward consistently as our position on this issue.

So that should be clear to the people of Manitoba; that when we sit in here hour after hour debating sub-amendments as to whether, in fact, it should be December 31st or December 30th - and they have said that they'll move others - that it is the Conservative Party that does not want to hear the people. It is the Conservative Party who wants to twist and manipulate, not through the open legislative system as we want to, but rather through what I call the big lie technique.

As I said, I would have thought that some statesman of moderation might have come forward on that side to put forward other positions. I think there are some on the other side. I have looked at the speeches made by the Member for Lakeside, by the Member for Fort Garry, by the Member for St. Norbert. They have a chance to say, yes, we are prepared to go out to the people or no, we are not prepared to go out to the people and we're prepared to stick with this extremist position.

What we're debating, Mr. Speaker, is not the resolution. We haven't debated the resolution since July 18th. We spent all of that time debating a referral motion that the Conservatives don't want to let pass. That's what we've spent our time doing, not debating the resolution. They may want to talk about the resolution and twist it and turn it, spend a lot of time off topic; what we are talking about is a referral motion. Should the people be heard, or shouldn't they? It is the opposition, acting in what they think is a constructive manner but which, in my estimation, is a filibustering, obstructionist manner that have continuously put forward these amendments, which I think have reached the silly stage.

They have also indulged in a set of practices which I think are stretching the Rules of the Legislature and stretching the Rules of Parliament, and parliamentary tradition right to the limit and are a loophole, a loophole which I believe creates a very big problem for the parliamentary system because in Parliament, especially in a two-party system, you're going to have a government that does have a majority and you will have the opposition. It will put forward its position; it'll put forward a position of dissent. It might raise constructive opposition, it might even raise destructive opposition points. It may dissent, but at some stage

it will say, okay, let the people have a chance to comment on this. It will say, at some stage an election will be held. We will put forward our position and you will have your position. We will let the people judge. But to go forward and say we are deliberately going to obstruct and filibuster and obstruct, and filibuster and bell ring, and walk out of the House, and move adjournment and then come back, and walk in and say call the vote, and if you call the vote we'll ring the bells.

I've heard some comments from the other side saying, well, don't just keep calling this issue. Even though they say it's an important issue, they say, don't just call this issue, call other bills and we'll speak to them. Well, I was in the House when we called other bills and virtually every one of them was stood, and the one that wasn't stood was, in my estimation, filibustered that day. They ragged that; four or five speakers got up on the same point that a member of the government bench indicated that a change would be forthcoming. But the members of the Conservative opposition decided that they would rag out debate until 12:30 so that they could stretch out debate and not really deal with the issue. They didn't even pass that issue; they didn't even pass that particular bill. So when I hear these cries from the opposition side saying, now, call the bills - that rings pretty hollow. As the Member for Ste. Rose says - it rings like a bell and we've heard a lot of those.

I think it's important for the Conservatives to ponder their position, and let this thing go forward to the people of Manitoba, because the longer they carry out obstruction and filibustering, the sooner that will become the issue facing Manitobans. If they want to become the party of extra-parliamentary opposition while trying to espouse parliamentarianism they will find that the people will see through that because it has been the Conservatives who have been ringing the bells.

It has been the Conservatives who say that if you call this issue and try and bring a vote on it, they will keep talking and filibustering - and what they are basically trying to invite us to do - I've heard some people on the other side raise this a few times now. They said, well, if you feel strongly about this bring in closure. In discussions with the House Leader and Deputy House Leader, I believe that the other side put forward the proposition to go into Speed-up which entails six-day-a-week Sessions, and move business along, and don't allow adjournment. Well, when we tried to sit on a weekend, they rang the bells. When we wouldn't allow adjournment as they suggested, they rang the bells. Now some of them are suggesting closure. I expect that they'd ring the bells again.

Where is there some consistency in the Conservative position with respect to the sub-amendment and the amendment and the referral motion that we're talking about, because that's what we are talking about? We're not talking about the substance of the resolution. What we are talking about is whether, in fact, the Legislature believes in this "whereas." I'll read it again because the don't read or don't listen.

"Whereas the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba deems it advisable to hear the views of Manitobans on the subject matter of this resolution; Therefore be it resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections hold such public meetings at such times and places as it may deem advisable to receive briefs and hear representations."

That is the heart of the referral motion that we are talking about. When we say we want to pass this so that we can hear the people — (Interjection) — that's on topic, that's precisely the point. When they get up and say that French language services is a thin edge of the wedge, that's not talking about the referral motion. It's not saying let the people come forward and be heard on this. It is revealing their true position on this. But we've got about four or five positions from the other side on this particular issue.

We have heard the Leader of the Opposition occasionally say that he is in favour of the substance in this resolution entirely, except for entrenchment. We've had a few others on that side of the House say the same thing. Now, that's the issue, fine we can debate that at some issue. Should it be entrenched or not entrenched? That, one can debate.

But when we have people coming forward and saying this is a terrible resolution, I don't agree with the substance of it. How many people on the other side of the Legislature have said this? How many have said they disagree with the substance of the resolution? Every once in a while they try and slip the entrenchment in but then in their speeches, in particular, over and over and over they say that this type of thing which their leader believes in is wrong, because it's a policy that supposedly exists. It's a policy that they supposedly support as a whole. It's a policy that I gather their federal MPs support. It's a policy, I gather, that the new Leader of the Federal Conservative Party also supports. It conceivably is a policy that I believe that aspiring MPs of the Conservative persuasion would want to support. I'm not sure.

I hear that the Member for Fort Garry is interested in part in the federal scene. Is he going to come forward saying, no, I don't believe in any entrenchment of language rights in the Constitution; I don't believe in that at all? I'd like to know what the positions are, because I believe that there are those differences and those differences appropriately should be discussed when we discuss the substance of the resolution and people will get that opportunity to discuss the substance of the resolution.

They can come forward and say, this is what you've brought forward; this is what the people have said; these are the types of amendments that you've come forward with - I don't agree with some of them, or I agree with them, or they don't go far enough, or they go too far. They then can put their positions forward on the substance of what we were talking about. We are prepared to do that, they are not. I can't understand why they get up over and over and over again and say that it's the New Democratic Party Government that doesn't want to hear the people; why they get up over and over again and lecture us that somehow the people should be heard, indeed must be heard. We've heard a lot maudlin commentary from the other side about how the people should be heard. We're trying to get to the people. We're trying to get to the people as a legislative entity.

We believe that's a far more preferable way to interact with the people of Manitoba. We want to have their concerns put on record so we can look at them, digest them, assess them and take appropriate action. I believe that's the way the Legislature should operate.

Now, the Conservatives put forward, I guess in their amendment, a different position. They say that we

should go intersessional, but they're also saying report back within a certain time limit.

We are saying that we can do so, normally, within the actions of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba without requiring an intersessional committee. We have gone fairly late, and I would suggest we have gone late because the Conservative obstruction and filibustering. I believe that we could have been hearing the public two weeks ago. It's not us who prevented the public from coming before a legislative committee to hear about this issue two weeks ago or a week ago. It's been the Conservative Party.

If we said that we are going to vote on this, to refer it, a day from now, then we could set in motion a procedure and a schedule so that people would get sufficient advance notice if we were sufficiently concerned about them and not ourselves, if we were concerned about the larger public issue rather than narrow partisan issues or narrower leadership issues and tactics. We could say, yes, let's work together, set a schedule; we have other things to do; go forward, take whatever time is required, and we have laid that on the table. We will take sufficient time to hear the people and then we will come back and we will have all the opportunity required to debate this issue. You know, if the Conservatives are going to take three weeks and possibly five weeks and six weeks to discuss a referral motion, how long will they take to discuss the resolution itself?

So, I'm hearing from the other side that they want to take a long time. Yet, we're getting these silly sub-amendments saying that we will prorogue the House after we clean up a whole set of other things, that we will then have intersessional committees, that we will come back and deal and expedite this entire matter by December 30th.

A MEMBER: Who are they kidding?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Who are they kidding? That's right. What they have done to date undermines everything that they say in this subamendment. We have said very clearly that we are prepared to go to the people as soon as possible, give the people sufficient advance time, give them sufficient advance notice and go out. We won't filibuster. Very few of us speak on this issue because it is a referral issue and it's quite clear. Many of the opposition speak on this issue but not about referral, but about their fears about the resolution and how the people must be heard.

Well, I'm going to be interested to hear what they have to say for the rest of the day. I would expect another round of personal attacks, I would expect another round of concerns and false fears and phobias about the resolution, but I would expect precious little about the referral motion.

We say they don't tell us what they're going to do and we say we're prepared to meet with the public; we're prepared to go outside of Winnipeg. The opposition says that's precious little, or that's nothing. We believe it's a clear statement to the people of Manitoba. We believe the people of Manitoba want to be heard. We are, in fact, prepared to hear them to the extent that the Conservatives continue the filibuster and obstruction. It will be they, not us, who prevent

the people of Manitoba from being heard on this issue, and it will be they, not us, who I believe will have to suffer the consequences for that. They may think that they may score some points through a lot of misrepresentation but ultimately when it comes down to whether the people are being heard or not, there are enough recorded votes, there are enough recorded statements.

I'm quite pleased to go out and show someone that the Conservatives are using a sub-amendment that changes a sub-amendment motion from December 31st to December 30th. They'll be able to see through that tactic very clearly, and I say that it's time for the Conservatives to become far more statesmanlike than they have to date, to join with us and go out to the people and not cry crocodile tears, and not spread mistruths about who does not want to go listen to the people, because the position and the votes to date have been very clear.

We will vote to go before the people; we will vote to hear them; we will vote to listen to them; we will try and take their concerns completely into account. It'll be the Conservatives who are objecting to that, who are obstructing that and are filibustering, and I would hope for the sake of Manitoba that they stop soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seldom in this House have we heard so much nonsense as what we have just heard. Concern must be expressed by other Rhodes scholars in this province because of the absolute nonsense that has just been heard from a Rhodes scholar, the Minister of Energy and Mines.

A MEMBER: Is he a Rhodes scholar?

MR. A. BROWN: The term "Rhodes scholar" at one time or other used to command some respect around here, but that term is fast losing its respect.

The Minister has been accusing us of the untruths that we have been spreading, and Mr. Speaker, where did these untruths come from? What has happened? If you just take a look at this paper, there are the untruths that you are circulating throughout the entire Province of Manitoba. There they are, and I'll again point out some of these because I did so yesterday but unfortunately, there were not very many members in the Legislature at that time. What they say in this particular ad is that, there will be no unrealistic programs for Manitobans; the federal model of bilingualism will not be applied in this province.

Mr. Speaker, once this is entrenched, then the government of this province will have absolutely nothing to say anymore about what programs will be implemented or which will not be. That is going to be in the hands of the Supreme Court. That is why this paper, everything that you print in here, is wrong, because you are going to hand all the authority over to another body which is not responsible to any elected body.

You say in here that the French language services in Manitoba are being introduced in an orderly manner to meet the responsibilities, but will not incur wasteful

expenditures through hasty action. Well, what is this nonsense that you are sending out? Is that not a wasteful expenditure? Since you have sent out this ad, you have changed your terms. You are saying now that you are willing to take this to the people, to have some hearings.

Mr. Speaker, if that was the case, if they are so anxious to take this out to the people, then why do they not vote for this amendment because that's exactly what this amendment says; that we want to take this out to the people; that there are going to be intersessional hearings; and that we will be reporting back before December the 30th. That's what this amendment says. So what is all this nonsense saying that we are obstructing this issue, and that we don't want to take it to the people. It's that side that has refused consistently to take it to the people. They have been wanting to ram this through, and we are going to oppose this.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to tell you that the morale on this side is building and it's building and it's building, because we are getting more phone calls from NDP members, from very influential members of your party who are phoning in. Keep that up, fellows, keep it up, we're on your side, they said, we tried to talk to our members. They said, our members are not going to change their position. They said, we are now coming to you and we're pleading with you, keep up the fight because we are on your side because, in spite of some of the elected representatives that we do have in this Legislature, there are NDP people out there who are responsible people and who are very concerned about this particular issue.

The issue is not the French language at all. We have all agreed upon this, and I think both sides have agreed upon how far we want to go, but it's the entrenchment. It is handing over the authority to another body. This is what the issue is, and this is what we're arguing about. I hope that the Minister of Mines and Energy is not going to distort that fact, because that is the issue that we are talking about. That is entrenchment. There is no other issue as far as we're concerned.

That is the big issue that the people of this province are concerned about is entrenchment, handing over authority to a body that is responsible to nobody, and who certainly will, if a case is brought before them - and these cases are going to come. We will know. There are going to be all kind of cases that are going to be brought before the Supreme Court. They are going to take one look at what has happened, and they're going to say, oh, Manitoba Government and the Federal Government, they have agreed that Manitoba is going to be a bilingual province. Therefore, this person wherever he went, whether it was Morden and a speeding ticket or whatever, wherever he went and it was not bilingual, that person should be entitled to have that bilingual. You know that. You all know that. That is exactly what's going to happen, because you said we were going to be bilingual.

That is the reason why the municipalities are so upset. That is the reason why the school boards are becoming upset, because they know that they are going to be the next on the line. You are not going to say how for they're going to go. It's going to be the Supreme Court that's going to say how far they're going to go.

A MEMBER: The Supreme Court's already said it. That's what the law already is.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I think maybe that we should just go back a little. Why has this happened in the first place? Why has such a bad agreement been entered into?

A MEMBER: In secret.

MR. A. BROWN: In secret, right. Nobody knew about what was happening with this agreement. One day, the Attorney-General came in and he announced, this is going to be it. That's the agreement we have made. There is going to be no compromise.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General on a point of order.

HON. R. PENNER: That's a very serious allegation that these matters were in secret. I just want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that speaking in this House on the 18th of May, 1983, the Leader of the Opposition said, "Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these negotiations have been in the public domain for some several months, can the First Minister indicate to us . . . " and so on. I want to repeat that for the record, because I want to put an end to this lie that these were secret negotiations.

The Leader of the Opposition, - this is Hansard, Page 2878, 18th of May, 1983 - "Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these negotiations have been in the public domain now for several months . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. R. PENNER: I want that to be on the record . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. R. PENNER: Let there be no more of that kind of . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It was not a point of order. It was a clarification.

The Honourable Member may continue.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a point of order?

The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: On a point of order, clearly, Mr. Speaker, prior to it having been in the public domain for several months, it was done in secret. That's the point that the Member for Rhineland is making, and that's the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member does not have a point of order.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I will be only too happy to withdraw that remark that these meetings were held in secret if the Attorney-General can tell me in one

instance where he came and told us what kind of an agreement he was negotiating with the SFM and with the Federal Government, before January. You never contacted us once. We had no idea what agreement you were arriving at. We had no way of telling what agreement you were deriving.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why are we in the dilemma that we are in? I think that what we have seen is some real bungling by the government on that side.

A MEMBER: They're a bunch of ding-a-lings.

MR. A. BROWN: Maybe we should just go back a little distance and see just what kind of negotiations we have had so far. We have been negotiated right out of the Alcan agreement. We have been negotiated right out of the Western Power Grid, because you said that you were better at negotiating than the former government had been. You could work up a better deal, and you negotiated us right out of it. You negotiated us out of the potash deal. You're experts at negotiating.

Now that was the Minister of Mines who was a very good negotiator when he was in the opposition, who was saying at that time that I can do better. I can negotiate better. I can get a better deal for you. Oh, he sure made a better deal. He negotiated us right out of it. He negotiated us out of thousands and thousands of jobs.

Then we have the Attorney-General who starts negotiating with the Federal Government and with the SFM - and what do they come up with? They come up with something which by and large is unacceptable to Manitobans and that story is being told day after day after day by the phone calls that we get, by the letters that we get, by the phone calls that you get and by the letters that you get, that people are upset and there is no way they are going to let you get away with what you are trying to do.

So, why don't we all, today, vote for that amendment that we are proposing? Let's take it out to the people. Let's hear what the people have to say and then come back and sit down and reasonably and rationally think this thing through and I am certain that we can at that time reach an agreement which the people of Manitoba have elected us here to reach the kind of agreements that they want us to make.

Why is there so much concern about entrenchment? What are the implications of this? I would just like to quote from this letter that the Honourable Roland Penner, Q.C., received from Mr. Twaddle, the lawyer, who they have so much respect for and who we all have respect for because he is one of the top constitutional lawyers. I would just like to read what Mr. Twaddle has to say about some of the concerns expressed by the Attorney-General, and rightfully so.

"Dear Sir: Re: The Proposed Constitutional Amendment."

A MEMBER: What's the date?

MR. A. BROWN: The date is June 23rd, 1983. It's a very current letter from Mr. Twaddle.

"Re: The Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

"You have asked me to attempt to identify those boards, commissions, corporations and agencies which will be subject to the bilingual language requirements of the proposed Section 23.8 of The Manitoba Act.

"I have reviewed all the statutes of Manitoba and the continuing consolidation and identified some 126 as potentially falling within the requirement. In forming an opinion as to whether or not a body does fall within the requirement, I have considered: (a) whether or not the function of the body is that of government; (b) the mode of the appointment of members of the body; and (c) the extent, if any, that it deals with the public. These criteria are not precise and in consequence it is impossible in some cases to say with any certainty whether or not the court would hold the body to fall within the requirement.

"Following my review I have prepared lists of bodies, which in my opinion fall within the requirement, and again: (1) The quasi-judicial and administrative bodies of the Government of Manitoba; (2) Crown Corporations; (3) agencies of the Government of Manitoba. Additionally, I have prepared a list of bodies which in my opinion are bordering cases."

And I would like to read that list, and this is why Manitobans have so much concern. There are 126. — (Interjection) — He was mentioning 126. Anyhow, that is why we have the concern, because, Mr. Speaker, we are going to hand over to a body that is not elected, that really have very little interest as far as the everyday person of Manitoba is concerned. We are going to look at one thing only, whether we are bilingual or not, we are going to hand over this by agreeing to the entrenchment of the French language.

But some of these agencies are - and this is outside of government departments. He's listed the quasi-judicial and administrative bodies of the Government of Manitoba: "(1) The Agricultural Lands Protection Board; (2) The Farm Machinery Board; (3) The Manitoba Beef Commission; (4) The Manitoba Milk Prices Review Commission; (5) The Manitoba Water Services Board; (6) The Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council; (7) The Manitoba Feed Grain Marketing Commission; (8) The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; (9) The Human Rights Commission; (10) The Manitoba Police Commission; (11) The Public Utilities Board; (12) The Manitoba Securities Commission; (13) The Manitoba Rent Review Board; (14) Rent Regulation Bureau; (15) The Co-Operative Loans Guarantee Board."

And incidentally, Mr. Speaker, the reason why I am reading these into the record is, there are people back home, some of their members back home who don't know about these things. They are listening in tonight. They are listening in and they want to know just exactly how far this can go. "(16) The Co-Operative Promotion Board; (17) The Credit Union Stabilization Fund Board; (18) The Board of Reference; (19) The Public Schools Finance Board; (20) The University Grants Commission; (21) The Lotteries and Gaming Licensing Board; (22) The Manitoba Lotteries and Gaming Control Commission; (23) The Manitoba Boxing and Wrestling Commission." They will have to be bilingual also.

"(24) The Health Services Commission; (25) The Sanitarium Board of Manitoba; (26) The Driver Licence

Suspension Appeal Board; (27) The Highway Traffic Board; (28) The Motor Transport Board; (29) The Labour Relations Board; (30) The Elevator Board; (31) The Pension Commission of Manitoba; (32) The Workers Compensation Board; (33) The Apprenticeship and Tradesmen Qualification Board; (34) The Civil Service Commission; (35) Clean Environment Commission; (36) The Oil and Natural Gas Conservation Board; (37) The Municipal Board; (38) Land Value Appraisal Commission; (39) Film Classification Board; (40) The Film Classification Appeal Board; (41) The Horse Racing Commission."

Then we come to Crown corporations: "(1) The Agricultural Credit Corporation; (2) The Liquor Control Commission; (3) The Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation; (4) The Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation; (5) The Manitoba Development Corporation; (6) The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation; (7) Manitoba Hydro," and believe me, there is a lot of concern over there. "(8) The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation," also very much concerned. "9. The Manitoba Telephone System," again, a lot of concern expressed by the employees of these large corporations. "(10) The Manitoba Trading Corporation."

All these will be requested or may be requested to provide service in two languages. Then for the government to come up and say that the cost is going to be rather inconsequential, that there is not going to be a large cost involved, that's something that Manitobans are not going to believe, because we know that there are going to be millions and millions and millions of dollars spent in order that all these commissions and boards can provide service in two languages.

Those dollars, they could well be spent on other things. We know that there is a large need for more hospitals, for more schools, certainly for roads. What's happening with roads at the present time, and the people that are involved in the heavy construction? They will tell you. They have told you time and time again that they cannot employ their long-term employees; that their long-term employees will not be able, this year, to get in the 20 weeks which are required for them to draw unemployment. These are people with families to support. Because of certain other things, your job creation program or whatever, you have taken away money that was traditionally spent on roads and you're going to take more money away in order to pay for all this French language translation, which you will be forced to provide whether it's necessary or not. You will have lost control.

So these people will not be able to look after their families this winter. You know, of course, what's going to happen. They will have to go on welfare. There is just no other way.

But what have you done with this money? You have given employment, I suppose, to a number of university students and a number of high school students, which is good. There is no problem there, except that by doing that you have taken jobs away from people who have families to support. You have taken jobs away from them, which they require to feed their families. This is exactly what you've done in so many areas with your Jobs Fund.

Getting back, Mr. Speaker, to the problem at hand, the item that we are discussing at the present time,

and that is this particular resolution. The concern that people are expressing is very, very genuine concern. They are listening in daily, and I can name you constituency by constituency the phone calls that have been coming in. You members all know where these calls are coming from — (Interjection) — yes. If the Member for St. Johns wants to know whether some have come in from St. Johns, yes they have. There is a very, very large concern, I would say, among the Polish community.

We were talking about other minority groups yesterday when I was speaking and the problems that the minority groups are going to have, whereas the government is saying, well their problems are going to be resolved, that they'll be certain that with the entrenchment of the French language, that also their rights are going to be served. I say, not so, Mr. Speaker. I say, not so, because what is going to happen is that both English and French is going to be taught in the schools. If you want to teach Polish, that's going to be a third language.

Then already that means that you are taking away from teaching other topics such as, well whatever you have, reading, English or composition or mathematics or whatever, things that you need to make a living on other than language. It is going to take away from that time, and it's going to be more difficult all the time for the minority people within this province to retain the heritage that they have enjoyed so far.

We know that this is going to happen, and I would just like to say to the Member for Burrows that we have also heard this concern expressed by the Filipino community. They are very, very concerned that they will be losing the heritage which they had hoped they would be able to continue when they came to Canada. There is great concern out there. I am sure that the Member for Burrows must be aware of it, because I am sure that he does keep in touch with that community.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that these members would stand up and would voice their opinion and voice their concern on these issues, because those issues are real. We have a large Polish community in Manitoba. We have a large Ukrainian community in Manitoba. We have a large Filipino community in Manitoba. I understand that there are about 25,000 of them.

I must say that they are becoming and have become very, very good citizens of this province. I don't know of anyone of the Filipino community that is not working. They have been able to find jobs. They're willing to work. They are people that are willing to work. All they really want is to be given the opportunity to work. I must say that I have gained a great deal of respect for that particular community along, of course, with all the other minorities who have been here longer and who have contributed a lot towards the development of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that these members that are from minority communities or from minority ethnic groups are going to stand up and voice their opinions, because if they do not they are letting down the very ethnic groups that they represent. That is not the reason why they were elected into this body over here. They were elected over here for a purpose, to speak their mind. I certainly hope that they will do so — (Interjection) — well that's right. There must be a lot of intimidation going on on that particular side.

Again I would like to come back to that particular individual who negotiated this agreement in the first place. I dare say, Mr. Speaker, that when that agreement was negotiated that very, very few people on the government side really knew what kind of an arrangement had been negotiated. I would say three probably, maybe a few more, very few more, because I'm certain that the members were not consulted when this arrangement or agreement was reached into between very, very few people; which is going to change the Constitution of Manitoba; which we will have to live by for hundreds and hundreds of years; which is going to affect everybody, your children, their children and generations and generations to come.

It's much too important an issue to do this all within one Session, Mr. Speaker. We should take our time. We should listen to the people. We should go to the people, have hearings. Let them express themselves, and let them express their concerns, because they must have many, many concerns as is evident by the telephone calls and letters that are coming in.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would very strongly urge the government to take this amendment to heart. Let's vote for the amendment. Then we can get off this topic. Let's vote for it tonight. Then we can take this to the people. If we take this to the people, we can come back, which we said, by December 30th, and we can see what the people have had to say.

Thank you.

TABLING OF A DOCUMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, by leave, I wish to fulfill the obligation to this House, the commitment that I gave to them earlier on this afternoon, when I said I would table a copy of the presentation that was presented to the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

DEBATES ON MOTIONS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT Re: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think one of the main questions before the Assembly in terms of the present debate, appears to be: Is this a filibuster, or is closure imminent? That seems to be about where it's at. Is there going to be a continued attempt by the opposition to stall or block this legislation on one hand, and on the other hand is the government going to resort to closure to force this legislation through?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is, in fact, in my experience, which goes back to 1966, the most important piece of legislation to appear before the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone can say that it isn't important because it's my information, and I have some pretty good sources to base this on, that

when this agreement was approved, assuming it was going to be approved, that there was going to be a little ceremony in Manitoba, and that Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada himself, was going to fly in, big white bird, into Manitoba, maybe accompanied by Serge Joyal, I don't know who would be there. Serge was undoubtedly the person who deserved to be there. The Attorney-General and the Premier would pose for photographs in the Legislative Building or on the front stairs, penning away their signature - Penner penning away - and the result would be a photograph that would then go into the history books, not only of Manitoba, but of Canada; for Manitoba a new pamphlet because Manitoba would then be officially bilingual, and another major step in the dream of the Prime Minister would have been fulfilled.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that was the original scenario. Yes it was. Mr. Speaker what happened, of course, was that the people at the top in the government realized that even if the legislation passed, it would not be a good idea for the Prime Minister of Canada to come to Manitoba to sign a document and pose for a photograph, because his political clout in Manitoba can only be measured in negative megatons, not in positive credits. So that idea was thrown out as it was along these lines - thank you very much for your offer, we appreciate your interest and your support, we appreciate your earnest desire to come and pose for a photograph, and sign the document, but no thanks. Well, of course, the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship he would have been here too. So would the MLA for St. Boniface.

A MEMBER: The MP.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, sorry the MP for St. Boniface.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that after the next election the Minister of Citizenship of Immigration will no longer be an MP. In spite of the fact that he has paid for half of Osborne Village, built converted gas stations as theatres, put up new information offices, had for some magic reason the Osborne Village area, and the Roslyn Road and River Avenue segments of Winnipeg, which are among the classier elements. I mean there are — (Interjection) — well, the Attorney-General lived there, and I lived there at one time, Mr. Speaker. We moved in and the other people moved out. Mr. Speaker, there are, of course, apartments that are very average in the area. There are, of course, just average homes and average apartments, and working class people, but there are also some of the finest. In fact, one of the reporters, whose watching now, lives in one of the blocks in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, so you have some of the better apartment blocks and some of the better residences, and yet somehow or other the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration had that designated as an area that deserved special support along with the core area. I assume they'll get a DREE grant sooner or later. I assume that there will be further monuments to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, but it doesn't matter, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter what he does, it doesn't matter how many dollars he invests in his own riding or how many buildings, he's going down

the tube. Perhaps the Member for Fort Garry is the one whose going to send him on his way. Whoever it is, that man will not be reelected, because he's going down with his party in the next Federal election.

So, Mr. Speaker, the question is, is this a filibuster or does the government have the right to invoke closure? Because if it's a filibuster eventually the government then may say they have a right to invoke closure. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this legislation should be withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that an intelligent approach would be to gut this resolution and throw out 23.1, and throw out 23.7, and pass the remainder. That would be an intelligent approach, or else scrap the whole thing. In spite of the Attorney-General's dire warnings that he couldn't even change a period, or a comma. He has partners and they tell him that he can't even make a move or take a breath unless he goes to them on bended knee, cap in hand, and says, "May I please?" — (Interjection) — Yes, the Franco-Manitoban Society has a veto over this legislation. We don't have a veto. The other 920,000 plus citizens of Manitoban, they don't even have a voice, But the SFM has a veto . . .

A MEMBER: Which side did they support in the Quebec Referendum?

MR. R. DOERN: Oh, I know all about that. In fact I found my file the other day, and I intend to bring that out and go over some of those events leading up to that Referendum and the position taken by their executive at that particular time.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General said that he couldn't even change a comma or a period in the agreement. Mr. Speaker, surely that is incredible. Who is running the province? Is it the New Democratic Party which is in office, is it the SFM, or is it Pierre Elliott Trudeau and the Federal Liberal Party?

Mr. Speaker, if we go to the Supreme Courts have no fear. There is reason in the Supreme Court, there's rationality. We're not concerned about remote possibilities. We're not concerned about that one in 100, or one in 1,000 possibility "Alice in Wonderland" about no laws, no Legislature, and no courts. That is not a reasonable concern.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's possible that the building could collapse any second now, but we're not going to worry about that. Well, that's the "Chicken Little" approach, isn't it? Chicken Little was running around, worried about that particular possibility.

Mr. Speaker, the other approach that could be taken by the government, and the politically smart approach that I hope will happen but I'm not going to hold my breath, is that at some point public hearings will be held, hopefully after the summer, because this is the last few weeks of summer that we are now not enjoying since we are prisoners of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the intelligent thing to do would be to hold the hearings a month later. Go around the province. Gather the briefs. Talk to the people, and then gut the resolution, or throw the whole thing out and go to the Supreme Court, and come out ahead.

In that way, Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic administration would have a chance of surviving. The government could say, we have listened to the people,

we have learned from the people, and we are going to follow what the public wants. At least, Mr. Speaker, they would have the respect of some people in society. They would have gone to the brink, tottered on the brink, almost fallen over and smashed themselves for decades to come, but pulled back. So at least some would say, at least a handful would say, maybe a few thousand would say, well they almost did themselves in, but at least they pulled back. They saw the error of their ways.

Mr. Speaker, if the government proceeds, then all that work that was done from the 1930's to the present, and I had a role in that - I played a part in that buildup period starting in the late '50s in a passive manner, but in the early '60s in an active manner on the executive and then in the Legislature up to now, all that work will be thrown away down the tube, and the government will set back the New Democratic Party for a long, long time.

Mr. Speaker, it's not the New Democratic Party that is out of touch with this issue. It is the government, the administration that is out of touch with the New Democratic Party and with the people of Manitoba. Because if you talk to an average New Democrat, if you go and talk to the guys - well the Minister is here who represents Transcona. Go and talk to the boys in the CNR shops in Transcona, and ask them where they stand on this particular issue. They will tell you in no uncertain terms that they are against, loud and clear.

Mr. Speaker, a lady brought a petition into my office one day, and then took it to the Premier's office. This was a couple of months ago. Mrs. Pat Maitman, and she brought in a petition with over 300 names. Some were taken in the better off parts of town, and half of the petition, over 150 names, taken in the CN shops. Mr. Speaker, the CN shops and the CP shops, the backbone of the New Democratic Party, working men, blue collar men, New Democratic supporters; if they don't back the government on this, the government is lost. They must have the support of trade union workers who live in Transcona and Elmwood and East Kildonan and the North End and Weston and Inkster and all these other places, Mr. Speaker. Otherwise, there is going to be a lot of trouble.

Mr. Speaker, there is talk about the thin edge of the wedge. I tell you that this is the thin edge of the wedge. I tell you that this is only the beginning. After us, the deluge. Mr. Speaker, Ontario is next, because now the feds have bilingualism across Canada federally only. Then they got New Brunswick. Okay, New Brunswick makes sense, doesn't it. Thirty, 40 percent French Canadians in New Brunswick, does bilingualism make sense there? You better believe it. I would support it there, easy.

Does it make sense in Manitoba? No way. Are you kidding? This isn't 1870. This isn't the Red River Settlement. This isn't when half the people spoke French and the other half spoke English. This is now, where everybody speaks English. Well, if it's not everybody - perhaps I'm exaggerating. It is probably 99-44/100's percent speak English, because there are probably a couple of hundred immigrants who have just arrived in the last couple of years who are studying English and attempting to learn the language.

So there is no need for official bilingualism. There is no need to translate all these documents and set

up hundreds of jobs in the Civil Service, so that once in a while, maybe in a blue moon, somebody will come who will prefer to speak French.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta and Saskatchewan have the same provision in their Constitutions in 1905 as we do. Now I don't know the exact wording. I simply take the word from Joseph Elliott Magnet or Magnet - I don't know how he pronounces his name, probably Magnet - Professor of Law at Ottawa University, who wrote this large article in the Globe and Mail on July 5, 1983. He said, "This formula may be repeatable in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Under the acts by which those provinces entered Confederation in 1905, institutional bilingualism was entrenched. Like Manitoba, both provinces failed to respect the original agreement. Today, their drift toward unilingualism is complete . . ."

Then the last paragraph, "Geographically . . .," here's what you're going to see in the future, "Geographically with New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba opted in, Ontario is the gaping symbolic hole blackening the middle . . ." Black Bill Davis. You've heard, the big blue machine; it's the big black machine, Mr. Speaker, which must be corrected. A ray of sunshine, a ray of light must enter Ontario. That, of course, would be Pierre Elliott Trudeau descending from the clouds to bring bilingualism to Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, imagine. Never mind Manitoba. You know, we're Manitobans, and we are proud of it. I am born in Winnipeg, raised in Winnipeg, lived in Winnipeg, and will die in Winnipeg. I am proud of being a Winnipegger and a Manitoban, but let's call a spade a spade. We are pretty small potatoes compared to Ontario. You know, you get Manitoba - Goody, goody! You get 14 federal seats. But if you get Ontario, what do you get? Ninety or 100 seats? Well over 80 seats federally. That's where the most Canadians live. How many Canadians live in Ontario? Well, 8 or 9 million. — (Interjection) — Well, my honourable friend says there are more people in . . .

A MEMBER: There are more seats in Metro Toronto than in all of Western Canada.

MR. R. DOERN: No, that can't be right. My honourable friend says there are more seats in Toronto than in all of Western Canada, but I think it's more seats in Ontario than in all of Western Canada.

So, what's going to happen? The feds are going to go after Manitoba, they almost have Manitoba now. Manitoba's been hooked and they're pulling Manitoba in like a fish.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta - can you see Peter Lougheed going for this? Could you see Peter Lougheed saying, okay, you got me, within the Constitution we're going to go bilingual. No. Over his dead body.

I don't know about Grant Devine. I don't know the measure of the man. I don't know his ability, but he'll never go for this. No way.

And Bill Davis - can you see Bill Davis, Premier of Ontario, saying, okay, we'll go bilingual. Can you imagine if he did what would happen to him in the next provincial election? He would lose his own supporters. The Ontario Conservatives would not support the Ontario Conservative Government if bilingualism became a fact in Ontario, just as the New Democrats in Manitoba will

not support this administration if this measure goes through. In spite of the fact that it'll hurt them, in spite of the fact that it'll bring tears to their eyes, some of them won't work, some of them won't vote and some will vote against the government, with some pain and agony they will vote against the government, because they are so distressed by this approach that they will not even support a party that they have been supporting, Mr. Speaker, for decades.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to read a few examples of letters that I have received. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I'm going to release the number of letters and signatures and petitions and dollars that I have had sent to me because of two advertisements. It's a phenomenal amount. Mr. Speaker, I want to read today as an illustration a couple of letters that I received from the Elmwood mailing that I sent out before, and tomorrow I'll release some letters, and I will send them to my colleagues in the New Democratic Party as examples. Some will fire them into the wastebasket, but some will read them, and some will realize and the depth and the breadth of . . .

A MEMBER: The Caucus Chairman reads all your mail, so he'll mail them.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, he'll read it for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I used to teach English and it is sort of annoying though, since I'm the one who normally corrects other people's letters and spelling, to have somebody correct mine, but perhaps, whereas I was someone who knows a fair amount about English, perhaps my friend from Radisson knows even more about English than I do. He certainly knows more French than I do, but he could know more English than I do. I would find that surprising, but it's possible.

A MEMBER: He's a teacher too.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, what did he teach?

A MEMBER: He taught English.

MR. R. DOERN: He taught English. Well, that's interesting, so did I.

Mr. Speaker, let me read you a couple of illustrations from my Elmwood poll. Let me read you a couple of illustrations from there. Here's one sent in: "We are proud of the many ethnic groups and no one group should have any special language privileges. Thank you for asking what Manitobans want." That's all.

Here's another one: "French language services for only 6 percent of the population of the province makes no economic sense." Right on. You get 100 out of 100 on that.

Now here's one that's more painful: "I have nothing against people learning another language, but don't shove it down our throat. Why are they allowing English signs to be taken down in Montreal? Why did the politicians pass this bill? No guts probably. There is a lot of hate in this country about French. The NDP have lost my vote if this is passed." Mr. Speaker, I sent these to my colleagues, they have seen this little sheet of quotes. I sent it to them a month ago.

Mr. Speaker, here's another one: "Does the people's party really believe that at a time when unemployment

is so high, taxes keep going up, people on fixed incomes are struggling to keep their heads above water, that whether you can speak French or not is a priority."

Here's another one: "Canada is not a bilingual nation, only Quebec," etc., etc.

Here's another one: "The Franco-Manitoban Society does not represent the majority of the province's people and therefore it should be put to and explained more fully to the people in a vote. Please don't shove French down our throats because we don't need it. Another thing, jobs are hard to find already. Don't make it any harder. Instead of French, give us more jobs."

Mr. Speaker, I could read hundreds of them. I'll just read one more: "It's a waste of taxpayers' money to have to duplicate all the government forms, licences, etc. As far as French becoming a condition of employment that is," and there are a bunch of symbols meaning blankety, blank, blank, blank. And then it says: "This is coming from a Canadian, one-half French, one-half English."

You know, Mr. Speaker, you read 300 or 400 of those, and I did, and you read a couple of hundred letters, which I did, and you get a pretty good idea of what people think about this particular point.

I'll now read you a couple, and I'll read you some names, because these people were contacted and asked whether or not their names could be used. They wrote me, but I checked as to whether they would allow their names to be read:

Mrs. Alice Richmond from 2267 Gallagher Avenue. Now, I don't know if that's Inkster. — (Interjection) — That's Inkster. Well, there's the MLA for Inkster. He knows Alice he says. "Congratulations on having enough gumption to go against Mr. Pawley and do what you were elected to do, speak for your constituents. I wish my representative would do the same, but I know he will not as it was because of his stand on the French question while campaigning that I quit the NDP!"

A MEMBER: Who was her member?

MR. R. DOERN: The Member for Inkster.

A MEMBER: Right, thank you, let's have it on the record.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are many more, I'll just read this one here which comes from my area, a gentleman named John F. Hickey, 839 Manhattan. Now that may not be my riding, it's right on the border. It could be mine, it could be the Member for Concordia, and listen to this: "I have supported the CCF and NDP since I have been voting, and that's a long time. I voted for you last time out." Okay, so he is in my riding. "Now, due to your party's obscene haste to have Manitoba become a bilingual province, I will never again vote NDP!"

MR. H. ENNS: If you send me his address, I'll send him a Tory card.

MR. D. SCOTT: He'll probably get one on the mail anyway.

A MEMBER: He's probably got one already, Harry.

MR. R. DOERN: So, Mr. Speaker, I'm simply saying to you . . .

A MEMBER: Russ is running for leadership too; Russ is running for the Tory leadership.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'm getting a lot of encouragement from my colleagues. I've had suggestions that I run federally, I've had suggestions that I run for Mayor. Now they're telling me I should run for the leadership of the Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker. Anywhere, anyplace except here. The field is wide open. I'm being encouraged to move on to bigger and better things. I appreciate the confidence that you're showing in me.

Mr. Speaker, some of the things that the government has done to date, in regard to bilingualism, have been just plain silly. I'll give you a couple of examples. We're already hearing about the official minority, we haven't even got French as an official language of Manitoba when we already have an official minority. I asked the Minister of Labour today, she didn't know what that was. The Minister of Cultural Affairs he didn't know what that was, but it's already beginning to appear in advertisements. I mean is this really what bilingualism is all about.

You know, I think what we should do is - do you remember Johnny Carson had something about "Happiness is?" Or was it Peanuts - Happiness is something? Well, we could have bilingualism is, and here would be one of them. Bilingualism is a ceremony on Canada Day, in which politicians attempt to speak French, and the public is asked to sing "O Canada" in French. Mr. Speaker, is that really what it's all about, handing out song sheets asking the citizens of Manitoba to sing "O Canada" in French? I mean is that what this is leading to?

A MEMBER: If Diefenbaker could do it why can't you, eh?

MR. R. DOERN: Well, I could never. Mr. Speaker, I have six years of high school French, and one year of university. Seven years and I could never understand Mr. Diefenbaker, I could never quite understand him. I couldn't understand Mr. Pearson either, I must admit. He also spoke French. — (Interjection) — Well no, Mr. Speaker, the distinguished Member for Wolseley, a one termer, if I ever saw one, Mr. Speaker, she says that six years in high school. Mr. Speaker, I started French in Grade 7.

A MEMBER: That's not high school.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, I didn't say it was high school. I said six years of French. Alright junior high, and high school, plus one year of university - seven years. So I don't understand what the Minister of Health was talking about when he said in 1957 there was no French before Grade 9. I don't understand what he's talking about. I had seven years of French completed in 1957, junior high, high school, and university, so I'm not quite sure what he's talking about.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: You're not bilingual yet?

MR. R. DOERN: No, I'm not bilingual because I'm a perfect example of the school system in Manitoba, taught to read French, but not taught to speak French. What would be the point of teaching anybody to speak French in Manitoba? Where are you going to speak it? Put an ad in the paper and ask somebody to meet you at such and such a place, so you could have a conversation. There is no practical need, Mr. Speaker, to know French in Manitoba. — (Interjection) — Well Alberta's worse. They have more French-Canadians in Alberta, but the population is two and a half times greater, so the percentage figure is lower.

So what do we get? The Minister of Cultural Affairs. Isn't that a contradiction in terms, Mr. Speaker. He calls, he has Canada Day, he has politicians come out and speak French and what a disaster. I wasn't there, but read what the Free Press said. Catherine Clarke wrote about it and it was a disaster.

It said "Politicians asked to take part in the opening ceremonies struggled admirably . . ." well I don't know about that, ". . . struggled admirably through the French portions of their speeches. Many in the crowd didn't attempt the French version of "O Canada," but looked with an embarrassed silence at the French word sheet joining in only for the English parts."

Well, what's the matter with these people? I mean aren't they into the spirit of things? Aren't they with it? Don't they know what's happening? Manitoba's going to be bilingual. This was the first province in Canada that had a bilingual Canada Day celebration, another first for the administration. Song sheets in French. Politicians fumbling, and stumbling, and stumbling, trying to read phonetically part of their speeches in French.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the invitations - we now have invitations one side in French, and one side in English. That's progress, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker . . .

How much time do I have? Five minutes? — (Interjection) — Nine minutes, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, there are going to be public hearings sooner or later unless the government comes to its senses and drops the bill. That would be the smart thing to do. Drop the bill and go to the Supreme Court and come out a winner. But anyway, we're going to have hearings sooner or later, and boy are they going to be hearings, Mr. Speaker.

There are now 52 names, I'm told, this afternoon, plus the municipal people have said we're sending in 125 briefs. A lot will be in person, and some will be in writing, and then there's going to be more people yet. I think 300 would be a reasonable number of people. If the Attorney-General is reasonable - I'm not counting on him to be reasonable - but if he were reasonable he would have the hearings 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. He would like them 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., but I'm arguing for 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mr. Speaker. He said several times, and he said it in the Press, and I have the clippings and I'm sure you do, he's going to run them 'till 1:00, and 2:00, and 3:00 in the morning. In the heat of summer, and in the middle of summer holidays, he's going to go right through, push it.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the submissions to date, it's quite clear what we're getting. We're getting the government supporters first. I'll bet you any money when we go into the hearing room the first 35 briefs will be about 32, 33, or 34 for the government, and

there'll be all kinds of people sitting there and applauding. The impression will be created momentarily at the beginning that the public is behind the government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me read you some names. At some of these I have to guess, at some I have to guess because I do not know. Let me run down the list. Maurice Prince, I don't know where he stands. — (Interjection) — Opposed. That would be very interesting, because he fought against the PQ when the Society Franco-Manitoban backed the PQ in the Referendum. That will be interesting. I assumed he would be opposed, but I didn't know.

Professor Don Bailey, well, he'll be in favour of the government, because he was at the International Inn speaking in favour. The Ukrainian Community Development Committee, Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education, Manitoba Association for Bilingual Education, in favour of the government; Mr. Abe Arnold, in favour of the government. Concerned Mennonites, contact John Klassen who works as a researcher for the New Democratic Party, got to be in favour. Well, you must be an unconcerned Mennonite and you must be an unconcerned Mennonite, because these are the concerned Mennonites. So you had better find out if there's another group that's going to appear.

A MEMBER: Quit picking on the Mennonites.

MR. R. DOERN: Some of my best friends are Mennonites. Remember that.

Mr. Georges Forest - you know, I heard a funny thing the other day, Mr. Speaker. This was a laugh. This woman that I was talking to, who can back it up and I can produce her, went to Teachers' College with Georges Forest - pardon my pronunciation - 25 years ago. Do you know who it was? I'll tell you who it was. It was the lady that brought the petition that I sent to the Minister of Highways, the lady from Beausejour who collected the petition. She's a teacher. She went to Teachers' College with him. During a roll call, the teacher said, Georges (Foray), and Georges said, Forest. Well, that was a long time ago.

I know Mr. Forest or Mr. (Foray). I think he's okay; I don't find anything wrong with him. He said some nasty things about me one day, but I still think he's okay, Mr. Speaker. But he will, of course, enthusiastically throw his support behind the government; just as the SFM threw their support and their money behind him; just as the Federal Government threw their support and their money behind the SFM to throw their support behind him when he fought his parking ticket.

Leo Robert, well, we know where he stands; Louise Dupont, I can't say; Corelle de Blais-Auvant (phonetic), presumably in favour; Mrs. and Mrs. Chandra, East Indian ethnic group, probably in favour; Dennis Heeny, I don't know; Roy Tsai - if that's how you pronounce it - he's in favour, because I saw his name; he's the editor of a Chinese magazine or something or newspaper. Bob McGregor from the Manitoba Metis Federation and so on; Mrs. Johnstone, I don't know; the Manitoba Progressive Party - well, that will be interesting. Mr. Sidney Green, he will certainly make a blistering speech; Mrs. McKenzie, private citizen, I don't know; Olivier Beaudette from St. Pierre from the

Conseil de la Co-operation du Manitoba, probably in favour; Michelle Roy, Conseil de la Co-operation du Manitoba Jeunesse Provinciale, probably in favour; Jeanine Bertrand from Plurielle (phonetic), probably in favour; Mario Sousa - I know Mario. He's a good man, but he's probably in favour; Ron Nash, I don't know; David Lerner, probably in favour; Bateau Grande (phonetic), he's in favour, he's writing letters; Robert André, Société Historique de St. Boniface, he's got to be in favour; Raymond Clément, Alliance Chorale, in favour; Bernard Turenne, CCFM, in favour; Florent Arnaud, Danseur de la Rivière Rouge, in favour; Rheel Teffaine, I know Rheel Teffaine, a very good man, Federation de Caisse Populaire, in favour. He spoke to me one day and told me in French he respected my position, but he disagreed with me and I understood him, but he will be in favour; Raymond Ferrier (phonetic) Federation Provinciale de Comité des Parents, in favour; Maitre Marc Monette, I think it is, College St. Boniface, probably in favour; another, looks like the same person; and Maitre Léo Teillet, Festivale du Voyageur, in favour . . .

A MEMBER: Okay, Russ, we get the drift. Get back to hitting the government again.

MR. R. DOERN: Okay. I just want to make the point. So, Mr. Speaker, I will simply conclude at that point and say, there was stacking and packing at the International Inn, and there is stacking and packing for the public hearings. Mr. Speaker, that's okay to a point. The government has a right to get out its supporters; the opposition has a right to get out its supporters. But do not be deceived, Mr. Speaker, and the government should not be self-deceived that the first briefs will represent the public. It is the overall briefs that will give an indication of what the people think.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Mr. C. Santos: The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, I'm really looking forward to the next sub-amendment, the 29th, the 28th. I am looking forward to the 27th, and I'm looking forward to all of them very sincerely.

A MEMBER: The 25th . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: No, I - the 25th, I think that we would take off, although this is the first time in the history of this province that, I believe, we sat on a long weekend holiday because we were dealing with a madman House Leader, but maybe we can solve that problem.

Mr. Speaker, the irony of the statements that were made by the Member for Transcona earlier tonight is just something that is amazing. This honourable member says that we are holding up the hearings on this bilingual resolution, that we are holding up the fact that the people want to come and be heard and give their opinion on it. Mr. Speaker, that's typical of the Member for Transcona. He is famous for whispering campaigns, etc.

So let me tell you what has happened in Manitoba for many, many years. To use an example, Sir, I

remember being on a committee that was in this province to look at the LGDs of the Province of Manitoba, the local government districts. It was a constituted committee of the Legislature put together to take a look at the LGDs between Sessions. We traveled to all of them. We were twice in every LGD for hearings. We came back to the Legislature, and we had our meetings, came up with a consensus as a committee, presented it to the Legislature. The Legislature and the Government of that Day, which was the NDP, worked at it and came up with legislation on that basis, presented legislation. It then went to the committee during the committee process of legislation, and it was all done in the proper way of making changes to people's lives, the people's lives being those in the LGDs of this province. They were given the opportunity, Sir, to speak to us when we went out there as a constituted committee of the Legislature.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what do we have in this particular case? Yes, we'll tell you. We had an Attorney-General and a Premier and a Cabinet who sat down and had meetings with the Franco-Society, with the Liberal Party of Canada and the Government of Manitoba. After it started, which we were told about in December or January, we all of a sudden get presented to us a resolution that entrenches languages, Sir, I'm not going to say French and English. It entrenches languages as the official languages of this province. It was presented to us just like that and it was rather surprising that it was presented like that because the Premier of this province, as my leader pointed out in his speech, said in speaking to the fact that we had called hearings between Sessions on the Constitution of Canada for the Charter of Rights, etc., in ensuring that the public will have a real input into this committee's work and the development of the proposals and initiatives. Those are the words of the Premier. Those are the words of the Premier of this province, where he says the people should be telling us what they would like. The people shouldn't have the - well, let's put it this way, people shouldn't be insulted with what has gone on to date.

The Attorney-General going out to four places in two days or three days . . .

A MEMBER: Two days.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Two days, thank you. And then having two hours or so at each one, giving people five minutes to speak after he spent an hour and a half speaking at each one. But we went out and we listened in those hearings as the Premier of the Province, Mr. Pawley, says, we listened to receive input so we could make the proper decision regarding their lives.

As I said, what do we have today? We have this presented to us in this Legislature, laid upon our desks, forced them, because we argued with them they had those meetings - they thought they were good enough. Now we have said, we want to have intersessional hearings from the people of this province so that they can have an input as to what happens in their lives, exactly the same as the Premier of Manitoba said when he was speaking in this House. Mr. Speaker, he also said, at a time when it would have been really worthwhile - he didn't agree on the timing, but he did say - at a time when, indeed, the public of Manitoba would assist and contribute in the development of these proposals.

Would somebody tell me, Mr. Speaker, what person in Manitoba, the public, the people of Manitoba, were given the opportunity to assist and contribute in the development of the changes to Section 23 that we have before us today? One group, a minority of a minority, the sixth minority in this province, Sir, and I don't care if they were tenth or eleventh, but that's the only group of people in this province that had the opportunity as the Premier of the Province of Manitoba says, would assist and contribute to develop the proposals. I've never heard of anything so downright hypocritical in my life.

Now, this government, this Attorney-General, who runs the government, comes along and he says, we want to put it into a committee of the Legislature. Never have the people been heard regarding the development of the proposals and he wants now to put it into a committee of the Legislature to have people have hearings on what they think of the proposals. Yet, as the Premier of the province requested, those people were never given the opportunity to assist and contribute in the development of the proposals.

So when the Member for Transcona gets up with his two-faced rendition and saying that we are holding things back, we are saying that this government should do the proper thing in this province. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever to rush this through. No constitutional change in Manitoba should be rushed through. It is the people's Constitution, Sir, and they have the right to have every opportunity to understand what is happening and give their input, as the Premier of Manitoba says, to assist and contribute into the development of the proposals.

At the hearings that the people will be at, they will be saying what they feel is right or wrong with those proposals, Sir. They never had an opportunity to be part of the proposals. Hypocritical, Sir, very hypocritical. And all we are asking in this House on this side of the House and all of the thousands and probably 90 percent of the people of this province are asking for, is to be heard. — (interjection) —

Mr. Speaker, I just heard another person say, that's what we want to do. He didn't hear what I said. Maybe he can get up and comment, comment on what the Premier said. He wants the people to assist and contribute into the development of the proposals. Are you going to do that? My foot. My foot, you're going to do that.

Mr. Speaker, just on August 2nd, last Tuesday morning, speaking in the House when the Attorney-General was giving one of his sarcastic smart-alec answers to the Member for Elmwood — (Interjection) — well, Mr. Speaker, this great Attorney-General comments that the Member for Elmwood is not a lawyer, he need not repeatedly prove it. The Member for Elmwood and I have never been close friends in this Legislature and he knows it and I know it, but he has principles, Sir. He has principles because his principle is that he believes in listening to the people which is more than those Manitobans on the other side with him believe. Not true? Not true. Well, then maybe you're accusing the Member for Elmwood of reading you letters that are not factual.

Maybe the Member for Dauphin who sits there, will table his 300 names that he had presented to him the other day, so we can look them over. Maybe when you

hear tomorrow of the number of names that the Member for Elmwood has, you won't say, not so. Maybe your head will come above the clouds and you won't say, not so.

But, Mr. Speaker, they said they were going to listen and I wanted to come back to - here's what the Attorney-General said on Tuesday, August 2nd, as late as Tuesday. He has said previously, it can't be changed. Everybody's got to agree. The Franco Society says it's going to be this way or nothing. As the Member for Elmwood said, they're running us. But here's what he said, continuing with the Member for Elmwood, the fact of the matter is, and it has been made abundantly clear time and time again in the presence of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, none so deaf who will not hear, that what is being avoided are tests on the validity of our statutes; that it will not be possible now if this goes through, as I am sure it will . . . "Isn't that something? Tuesday morning the Attorney-General who wants to have all these marvelous hearings, to hear the people, to have input, said on Tuesday morning, August 2nd, ". . . if this goes through, as I'm sure it will . . ." That's Page 4746 of Hansard, August 2nd, 1983, Sir. Now we wonder on this side when we here the members on the other side talking about hearings and wanting to hear the people and the Attorney-General who is running the government says "I am sure it will." He doesn't say that it will; he says "I am sure it will." — (Interjection) —

I just heard a member on the other side say positive thinker and he can be a positive thinker because he knows that he's not about to change anything, and you people on that side haven't given any indication that you're about to change anything. Then when we hear that it's got to be one way or not at all from the Franco Society, the only group that had discussion on this ahead of time, not the rest of the people of Manitoba, we, on this side of the House say that we will have intersessional hearings, Sir, for the people of Manitoba to do what the Premier of the province said - assist and contribute in the development of the proposals. All we're asking to do is what the Premier of the province wanted done previously. That's all we're asking, Sir.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say this in addition to what I have said. This government wants to have the committee hearings while the House is in Session. They want this resolution passed this Session, Sir. I wonder if we could get a guarantee from the government that if we went into these hearings and at the same time did the business of the House, and the business of the House ended I wonder if they would guarantee that the hearings would carry on? If the House adjourns, Sir, would they guarantee that the hearings would carry on if they weren't finished? Could we have that guarantee? I doubt it very much, Sir. I doubt it very much.

The Member for Transcona gets up and accuses us of holding things up when he has presented a kangaroo court. The Attorney-General has presented something that he says is going to happen in this province and that's all there is to it. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to debate this for the benefit of the people of this province. We will continue to debate it for minorities in this province, Sir.

I'll tell the honourable members why. It's been told to you many, many times that there is no official

language in the Province of Manitoba. Even though the government puts out press releases that are misleading which my colleagues read out earlier today, you know, they put out a press release to the people of Manitoba that states that Manitoba is the only province that is both officially bilingual and fully multicultural. Manitoba is not officially bilingual. Section 23 of our Charter doesn't have the word "official" in it; it just says that we must have French and English in our courts, in this Legislature, and that our legislation must be written in French. That, Sir, was put in in 1870.

In 1890, Sir, the Government of Manitoba passed legislation saying that we were a unilingual, English-speaking province. We lived for many years with that and we found out in 1979, because we live in a democratic society, that the Province of Manitoba had done something they couldn't do.

As Mr. Eric Wells said on his program in his comment the other day, protection of the minorities happened in 1979. I would be willing to bet that the Attorney-General and the Premier and honourable members on the other side agreed with and were very happy to see that that situation was changed. Even though they might not have known the outcome of the legislation, they were probably happy to see that happen.

Mr. Speaker, now, in 1983, this government comes forward and wants to entrench two languages as the official languages of the Province of Manitoba, French and English basically, because they are the two mentioned in our original Charter - not one language, but two. In 1890 they only entrenched one; it was illegal. But in 1983 they want to entrench two languages, French and English, and now what happens to the other minorities.

This government keeps saying, Sir, that if we don't protect the minorities of the French how can we protect the other minorities? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's completely the opposite. If we entrench these two languages and make them the official languages of Manitoba, what happens to the other minorities? What happens to the Ukrainian; what happens to the German; what happens to the Filipino; what happens to the Italian? What happens to all of those languages that we're so proud of when we have Folklorama in this province? Are they entrenched?

As I said when I spoke on this earlier, Sir, I am a WASP. I am English, Scotch and Irish, I think. I say "I think" because I'm not sure without going away back. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to see the English language entrenched; I don't want to see the French language entrenched. I don't want to see any languages entrenched in this province because we are a great mosaic; we are a great province; we do have the multicultural that I mentioned previously. We do have the multicultural that we mentioned earlier. So, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we are not helping the other minorities in this province by entrenching two languages. What happens when you entrench it, Sir? Section 23 says very clearly, right off the bat, and this will be the Constitution probably for hundreds of years or a hundred years anyway, it won't be changed - 23.1, English and French are the official languages of Manitoba - and no lawyer or judge will ever argue with that statement, it can't be clearer, and you are putting the decisions of what services will be given in those languages into the hands of a judge.

Mr. Speaker, let me read to you: "These are the policy of French language services that were presented by this government on March 23, 1982. We had presented services when we were government. Let me say this, where practical, signs and public notices in the above-mentioned designated areas should be in both official languages. The above-designated areas," it says, "where feasible. Forms, identity documents and certificates for use by the general public shall be in bilingual format." Mr. Speaker, where feasible - who decides? At the present time, the government decides where feasible and can use common sense for the benefit of all the people of Manitoba. Where feasible? Who decides where feasible when it is entrenched in your Charter? The courts will, and don't give us any of that folderol about the other sections of Section 23. 23.7 says that . . . but remember this province is a creation of the Federal Government, and all of the municipalities, etc., are a creation of this province and I assure you, and I don't care what any lawyer says, and the ones that I have listened to, the good ones that I have listened to have said, who decides? The judge will decide and the first thing he reads in the Charter is, "English and French are the official languages of Manitoba."

Very clear, isn't it? There must have been a lot of negotiation on that one. Here's another one. "Where feasible the information documents destined for the general public shall be of either bilingual or separate language formats depending on the cost and efficiency and required distribution." I agree with that, providing the government makes the decision as to cost efficiency and required distribution.

Under the present legislation, under our present Charter, the Government of Manitoba and the people of Manitoba who elect us are the people who will make the decisions as to what is the best service for the Province of Manitoba. Are you truly telling me that maybe road signs, Sir, if they're going to have an area where they should be in French, that we put "Arret" and "Stop?" Are they going to tell me, Sir, that they'll make two different road signs? Is the Minister of Highways going to order two different kinds of signs? He is not. He will put out a directive: don't waste my time; get it done in both, because I'm probably going to have to do it in both. He has been in politics long enough to know that he'll have to do it. If somebody says that I couldn't find my way because there were only English signs, he could very easily go to the court. Because the Department of Highways is a department of the Provincial Government, I think. I ask the Minister, are you still part of the Provincial Government?

Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the bilingualism situation that we are talking about can be and is being controlled by the Provincial Government listening to the people of Manitoba on the basis of taking care of all of our cultural groups and minorities, trying to be fair to everybody as all the governments have been in the past few years of the Province of Manitoba. The government just put in the Ukrainian Cultural Society. Mind you, somebody looking for it may have to get there reading French signs, but they put it in. Mr. Speaker, I agree with all of these things that are being done. I agree with the language programs that are in the schools, the Ukrainian, the Jewish, the French and all of them. I agree that the government has to give

services to all ethnic groups within this province. I don't agree that they should go overboard, but they are the government and they make that decision, but at least the government can make the decision, but when we say in 23.1 - "English and French are the official languages of the Province of Manitoba" - Mr. Speaker, they wonder why we are debating this in this House.

Mr. Speaker, they could be calling other House business. They say we are filibustering and I guess we are because if they don't call any other business, this is what we're going to talk about. There are other bills on this Order Paper that will be spoken on and passed and moved into committee. There's nothing in the committees right now, Sir. We are holding up this House. Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you it's the dogmatic government that's holding up the House because they have to deal with the Franco Society and the Liberal Government of Canada to pass this through and they are determined to do so right away. I say this, and I say this to the honourable members of the press up there who are being told by the members on the other side that we are holding up the House and I say very sincerely, Sir, when I pick up this Order Paper, I can see second readings, all kinds of them that can be passed into the committee of this House.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you - I heard that firefly voice from Inkster who keeps his knees waving all the time - the reason they weren't passed on Saturday is because when you have an agreement not to sit on the long weekend, Sir - (Interjection) - Well, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Inkster says, he doesn't have an agreement and I say to him that if the Attorney-General told me the time, I'd look at a clock. So, I assure you very sincerely that I believe my House Leader and I don't believe your Attorney-General. It's as very very simple as that. We had an agreement not to sit on a long weekend, and then there were sittings on Saturday, there were sittings on Monday of the long weekend. This was going to be the Deputy Leader of the House's great vindictive plough, you know, he was going to bring us to our knees on the long weekend. Well, he found out differently, as they will continue to find out differently from here on in. Mr. Speaker, there is lots of House business.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the members opposite are living in a bit of a dream, because they think after three years, before this comes into effect that everybody will forget it.

The Member for St. James is not present, but let me remind this House that three years before the election in 1973, the Member for St. James stood up and voted for Unicity - (Interjection) - I just heard the words, he paid his price. There were hearings. Those were very famous hearings. The Member for St. Johns, then Mr. Cherniack, went all over the city having hearings on Unicity, getting people's input from it. What did we get? Exactly what he was going to do in the first place, the same thing. Of course, we know that because the Attorney-General just said on Tuesday, as I am sure it will. I'm sure it will.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. James, as the Member for St. Johns says, he paid his price. Do you know, if you look around the members of the City of Winnipeg, you will find that most of them were in the cities that were brought into Unicity. Most of the members that are here from the city are members that

were from outside of the Winnipeg area. Mr. Green was from Inkster. I believe Mr. Miller . . .

A MEMBER: He was from Kildonan.

MR. F. JOHNSON: Well no, he was a separate city. Kildonan was a separate city. But most of the members that were members outside the original City of Winnipeg didn't make it. By sheer accident, the Member for Inkster beat Mr. Green, which is hard to believe, but it happens, and it will be changed shortly.

So, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba and Winnipeg, and I put it in the two because there are about half of the seats in Winnipeg and about half of the seats in the rural area, are not going to forget, you're all vulnerable now, because you are all going against 90 percent of the people of this province — (Interjection) — thank you. The Minister for Highways says, 93, because it is 6 percent. In fact, I would go so high as 95.

If the Member for St. James can pay the price on Unity act three years, I assure you that on this, which is not unifying the City of Winnipeg - it's changing the Charter of the Province of Manitoba - I assure you the members on the other side will pay the price, whether it's two, three, four years or whatever. If you think that you can solve, if you think that you can wipe this away in three years, you're very wrong because we already have people saying, if they do it, we'll never vote for them again, and they won't.

You people have misread the people of Manitoba. You think you know them, but let me assure you the people of Manitoba may not say an awful lot, they're very reserved people. In fact, in Missouri, they say, I'm from Manitoba. I assure you that they will quietly remember what this government has done; first of all, not listen to the people; first of all, done what the people don't want them to do. That's the worst one, and there are all kinds of other legislation that is going to affect people's lives in this province that they won't forget, Sir.

They will pay the price in three years, as the Member for St. James did. He came back into this Legislature, Sir, on one basis only. He came back because his party went out and told the people a bunch of folderol. "Clear Choice for Manitobans," that's why he came back, all a bunch of garbage that has never happened. Do you know, they won't give him a third chance. I live in that area. He won't get a third chance.

So, Mr. Speaker, the argument that this government gives that passing this is assurance of protecting the other minorities is just the reverse. Once you entrench French and English in this province, those other minorities do not have the same rights as they have now, because there is no official language in this province at the present time.

Those other minorities that raise their children, learning the cultural language or the language of their forefathers or their parents, whether it be Italian or whatever - take a look at Folklorama. All of those cultures and people within this province will be teaching their children those languages, and they will have to learn a third to be able to do business in this province or to work in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Rhineland just read off the list of boards. Let me say this. Let's take, for

example, the Licence Review Board. You are going to have one member on it that can speak French? They meet all over the province, Sir. They have a shift system, because they can't all get off work at the same time. They'll have two or three there at one time. It really doesn't make sense to have one bilingual person on that board. You are going to have to be bilingual to be on that board, and you're going to have to be bilingual to be on most of the boards that my honourable colleague, the Member for Rhineland, listed, Sir.

This government says they are protecting the minorities? Mr. Speaker, that is probably the most misleading, deceitful, and anybody that tells the minorities that should be ashamed of themselves, and if the Member for St. Johns believes that, he ought to turn his collar around. Mr. Speaker, I say sincerely — (Interjection) — I should change my act, I've been sick of looking at yours for 14 years, and I assure you I'm a little sick of it. I've known your act, sir.

But, Mr. Speaker, I say the people of this province will remember what this government is doing and we aren't holding up the House, we'll be very happy to have the House Leader come in tomorrow, pick up the Order Paper, and call the business of the House, and we'll be very pleased to take care of it, Sir. We will do it efficiently, and we will move the business of the House, but we will not put this resolution into a committee while the House is sitting, and when it shouldn't be there in the first place, it should be in intersessional hearings.

Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I listened with some interest to the speech by the Member for Sturgeon Creek. I think it would be useful to remind the House of exactly what it is we are debating. The government proposed to the Legislature that the issue of the amendment to the Constitution be referred to a committee where we would hear the public. We want to hear the public.

The opposition has presented several amendments and sub-amendments saying they want a committee that reports back by December 31st, that was voted down. Now we are on the very narrow issue of whether the committee should report back by December 30th.

Now the Member of Sturgeon Creek in his speech didn't really talk about that very much, but he did mention it a little bit. He did indicate, I thought, and I might have misunderstood him, but it seemed to me that what he was concerned with was the process in terms of exactly how that committee will operate. As he knows, and as members of the Legislature know, it matters not whether the particular committee to which we have referred this would be sitting next week, or two months from now providing a proper forum is used. That people are notified and — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Sturgeon Creek asks "Will the House adjourn?"

It is my understanding of the Rules, and I admit that I'm not an expert, but it is my understanding of the Rules that unless there is leave we can't have a committee of the House sitting at the same time that

the House is sitting. If that is the case, then obviously the House would not be sitting unless there was leave. So I don't know why members opposite are up tight about that. It seems to me that it's very clear that once this matter is referred to a committee that the House would not be sitting during the time that the committee is sitting unless there is unanimous agreement. If there's not unanimous agreement, then obviously the House would not be sitting. So I don't really understand what the problem of members opposite is with respect to going and hearing from the public.

We've wasted two weeks, more than two weeks now talking on this very topic rather than listening to the public. We have apparently now 150 submissions, people wanting to be heard, who are waiting while this group here is determining December 31st, December 30th, December 29th, etc.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member permit a question?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Certainly.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Did the public of Manitoba - by having hearings at the time when indeed the public of Manitoba would assist and contribute in the development of the proposals - Mr. Speaker, I ask the member, did the public of Manitoba assist in putting these proposals together?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult for the public to do that before they're heard. We are saying that the public . . .

A MEMBER: How come the Franco-Society did?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, the member keeps referring to the fact that the SFM was involved in negotiation. The SFM was involved as a party to a court case. If somebody sues you and you're trying to settle a court case, you talk to the person who sues and not necessarily to someone else, and then you try, in a case such as this where we are a public body, we go to the public and discuss it with the public and the public will have input certainly as much or far more input than they had when that group was in government and when we had a committee going around to hear people's views on the Constitution. The, then Attorney-General was on that circuit. I was in there, I heard the people of Manitoba tell that committee we wanted a Charter of Rights and I recall the report back to the Legislature by that committee that the NDP voted against, because it did not represent either the views of the people or the views of the Official Opposition at that time.

So, don't let us hear from that group that they are the ones who listen to the public. We are prepared to listen to the public. The Premier has said very clearly that he is prepared to make changes if changes are proposed and they make sense. There have been some changes proposed by the MGEA, I think that they have to be looked at. I'm sure the MGEA will be there.

The Member for Sturgeon Creek in his speech just referred to another item of great concern to him, the fact that document refers to the two official languages

of Manitoba. I would refer the honourable member to a memo dated September 4, 1981 from Sterling Lyon to all his Ministers, starting paragraph 2: "I'm pleased to inform you that Mr. Roger Turenne has been appointed to this position . . ." - he referred to a senior advisor on the French Language Services Secretariat, which had been established. There's another sentence outlining Mr. Turenne's background, and he goes on: "In the coming weeks he will be calling on you and will be seeking your views on ways and means to give substance to the government's announced intention of applying the spirit as well as the letter of the Supreme Court's ruling on bilingualism in Manitoba."

Now, he didn't say two official languages in that particular - (Interjection) - I was hoping you would say that, because it's in the very next paragraph, Mr. Speaker, the man said: "One of the Secretariat's first tasks will be to draft a set of guidelines for Cabinet consideration, creating a framework within which departments and agencies, which have not already done so, may implement policies designed to provide at least some of their services to Manitobans in both official languages." What hypocrisy! We have heard 40 minutes from that gentlemen telling us that he is concerned about the two official languages, and here his own Premier, who understood that ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada, was talking about the two official languages, was talking about the Supreme Court's Ruling on bilingualism in Manitoba. What hypocrisy on the part of the opposition! What total, pure hypocrisy!

Mr. Speaker, the then Premier - (Interjection) - No, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that, it was not hypocrisy, but it was so close that it was difficult for me to distinguish between that and hypocrisy.

Now another memo, Mr. Speaker, we've heard the concerns of members opposite with respect to the translation of statutes. Right? They've been complaining about the costs. Here we have a proposal . . .

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: The Member for Sturgeon Creek on a point of order.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Will the honourable member permit another question? Is the item he's reading from a memo to the government, or is it a news release? The one I was referring to was a news release to the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, the item I referred to, dealing with both official languages, was a memo, as I said at the time, from the Premier to all of his members of his Cabinet and all of his Deputy Ministers. Was he not telling you the truth?

Now, Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 1980, the President of the Council again in a memorandum to Cabinet regarding French language services in Manitoba recommended, No. 1, " . . . that we confirm the decisions already made to translate statutes, bills and regulations as the necessary translation services are available. We should confirm our intention of furnishing translation and interpretation services in the French language within the court system of Manitoba, and make

it clear that it is our policy to furnish such services. We should confirm the policy so that, as rapidly and completely as possible, all operative statutes, bills and regulations will be translated."

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have come forward with an agreement, with a proposal to change the Constitution so that instead of translating all of the operational statutes, regulations, etc., of the province, that we will be required to translate 500 of the 4,400. Which is the better proposal? The one of Sterling Lyon that said he would do all of the operative statutes or the one of Howard Pawley that says we will do the 500 that are most needed? Which makes sense to the people of Manitoba? Which makes sense?

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of things we think we should be talking about to reasonable Manitobans. The reasonable Manitobans I expect to see, quite frankly not too many of them are in this Chamber on the other side, but I believe people out there are prepared to come forward and give us advice. Hopefully, they will improve the proposal we have made. We do not pretend to be perfect. If they can come up with more recommendations to make this amendment one that is acceptable to the great majority of Manitobans, we would be delighted with that. We have to assess what people tell us at those public hearings.

We are serious about them, but quite frankly all of us would have to admit that the last couple of weeks spent in this House have been a total waste of the taxpayers' time, and has been a tremendous cost to the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba. We would have been spending that time far better listening to the public. You know, as I've said before, apparently there are now somewhere around 150 submissions, 150 individuals and groups who are prepared to present evidence to our committee when it decides to convene.

I would urge all the members to get off of the filibuster, to stop this nonsense of sitting late into the night every night in order to exhaust your speaker's list on this, and then tomorrow start on December 29th and repeat your same speeches. Let's go and listen to the public. Let's not pretend that it is all a clear-cut issue of the NDP and the proposal is all bad, and the Tories are all good. Let's not pretend that what we would have without this agreement, without this amendment would be all good. Let's not pretend that we would not have difficulties if we continue to have people challenging the various statutes that have been passed in the last 90 years which, as we have seen in other court decisions in the last few years, have been overruled by the superior courts of this country. Let's not pretend that won't cost money.

Let us recognize that if we can get an agreement under which we don't provide the unnecessary services of translating 3,900 statutes that are unnecessary to translate, that isn't something to the benefit of Manitoba. Let us look at the benefits of this agreement. Let's look at the difficulties with the agreement. Let's try to work something out to make for the best possible amendment to the Constitution, and let's get on with the job. Let's stop the filibustering. Let's stop the nonsense.

A MEMBER: Support our amendment.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: You know, Mr. Speaker, the member down there says, support our amendment. He

seems to think that he's in government. He seems to think that he is on this side of the House, and he will decide exactly how this province is run.

MR. G. MERCIER: Right.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: And the Member for St. Norbert says, right. Mr. Speaker, it is really unfortunate that people who have lost an election cannot get it through their heads that they are no longer in government; that they no longer can completely dictate the will of this House. They are entitled to disagree with us. They are entitled to vote on disagreements. I don't believe that they are entitled, day after day and week after week to filibuster; to hold back the work of this House; to hold back the passage of good legislation that we still have on the books; to prevent the public from speaking to us on this particular issue. I don't believe that they have the right to do that.

I think that they should get on with the business of the House and stop this filibustering. Stop the bell ringing. Stop the nonsense, and let's get on with the work of Manitobans and try to make this a better place in which to live.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?
The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Merci, M. le President. Ce soir, je veux présenté mon discours en Français, mais je pense je parle Anglais mieux que je parle Français.

This evening, Mr. Speaker, I would love to speak and present my discourse, my speech, in French, but I believe that I speak English a little bit better than I speak French, and I want to be understood because I feel that I have some very important things to communicate with my associates in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I am a French-speaking Manitoban. I am not bilingual, and I am not of Francophone background, but I do speak French. I have worked hard to be able to be in that type of a position.

The passing of this government constitutional resolution is not to the best interests of the Francophone in Manitoba, and I will not be supporting the entrenching of the French language into the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this evening, I had the opportunity of going to my home in St. Boniface during the supper hour so that I could relax a little bit and join my family in having a bite to eat. Before I returned to the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, I started taking out the garbage, because Friday is garbage day, and my wife says, "Abe, what are you doing?" And I say, "I have to take out the garbage," because they pick up the garbage in the front of the street and I didn't know what time I was going to be coming home, so I wanted to make sure that the garbage was out there because they come around pretty early in the morning. She says, "You don't have to put the garbage out, they're not collecting garbage tomorrow." I said, "Oh yes, they're collecting garbage on Friday." She says, "Not if there's a holiday in the week, if there's a holiday in the week, they move it to the next day, which would be Monday of next week."

It's Day 4, Mr. Speaker, and I had forgotten that there was a holiday in the week because circumstances

beyond my control, Mr. Speaker, did not allow me to enjoy the holiday, the long weekend in August, the first one with my family, because I wasn't able to have the notice in advance so that I could make other arrangements for my holiday weekend. I had forgotten about the holiday, Mr. Speaker, and I had to suffer the consequences because the duty was for me to be in this House because of some misunderstanding where an agreement was broken. I believe an agreement was broken. I don't have anything in written confirmation, but to my knowledge an agreement was broken by the government in not maintaining an agreement that was made with the opposition, Mr. Speaker, and the government was going to punish the opposition because of this broken agreement, which they initiated.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Minister of Finance just a couple of minutes ago, and I'm just going to be speaking for maybe five or 10 minutes and maybe a little bit longer if it goes on, but I really have important things to say and I'm going to try and get it into that five or 10 minutes because I don't want to be accused of filibustering and I will be speaking of important items only, Mr. Speaker. But a little earlier I heard the Honourable Minister of Finance make some remarks about - we want to hear the public.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's very loose wording. I'm not saying that he doesn't mean it, but I think that from the past indication of where we have had committees that have been cut short because there weren't people there to make their presentations, but there were people who had advised that they were going to make presentations, but these people weren't quite there when the time came for the presentation to be made and having a majority in committee, the committee was cut short. So, it's very very shallow words when an Honourable Minister says that we want to hear the public. They say it, I don't believe it, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not imputing any motives on their part for saying it and I'm not suggesting that they are speaking mistruths, but I don't believe that that is what they want because it is not to their best advantage.

Mr. Speaker, I just wonder how many members of government, after saying that they are so interested in the French language rights and the enshrining in the Constitution whether, in fact, they have investigated these different propositions, or are they just taking the word of some of the people who have negotiated for them? I know, if I am going to be speaking on these subjects, I have taken the time to investigate, to speak to people who are directly involved, Mr. Speaker. I happen to have many Franco-Manitobans in my area and I know some of them on a personal basis, and I have taken the opportunity of speaking with them, Mr. Speaker. What they say on behalf of the Franco-Manitoba group in Manitoba is not what I hear: the Society Franco-Manitoban stating to be the words of the French population in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's incumbent on everybody who is going to have a vote on this important subject to contact the people who are directly involved. You wouldn't vote or make any statements on capital punishment without investigating; you would contact police officers and things of that nature. You wouldn't make any commitments on seat belt legislation or helmets or children's restraint without first investigating. We had the opportunity of going through committee

besides, but you would contact people who are directly involved. If you were going to vote on The Consumers Act, you would contact people who would be involved with consuming articles and particularly on the 5 percent deposit that we had debated so rigorously last Saturday, Mr. Speaker. Raising the drinking age from 18 to 19 or higher, I know that you would have to take the opportunity of speaking to people in that age group, to find out, you know, what it's all about. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that they're not just shallow words that they say that they want to hear the public. I hope that they have already gone out and spoken to the public, particularly the ones that are directly involved.

Mr. Speaker, a little earlier today, I listened to the Honourable Member for Springfield and I had a funny feeling that I was being set up. I had a funny feeling that what he was saying to all of us on this side of the House, he was setting us up. I'm going to relate a story because I think that you know my background, Mr. Speaker, when I was a football official in the Canadian Football League a few years back. There was a change. There was a football commissioner by the name of Sidney Halter, and Sid had resigned his position, he was getting on in years and he was replaced by another football talented person - or at least we thought he was at the time - Senator Keith Davy, who happened to be a Liberal Senator and he was appointed Commissioner of the Canadian Football League and lasted about six months, Mr. Speaker, I don't even think that he lasted into the football season. I have a keepsake similar to the one that I have dated August 1st, which were Orders of the House to keep as a keepsake because I have football with Senator Keith Davy's signature on it, Mr. Speaker, and I'll put that along with the notice of the meeting on August 1st, which was a holiday, the first time ever that this House ever sat on the holiday weekend.

But, Mr. Speaker, there were rumours going around concerning a Jake Gaudaur as to whether Jake would replace Senator Keith Davy as a commissioner, and they were deliberately planted rumours and when there was no reaction to the rumours, in fact, all of the reaction was of a positive nature, Jake Gaudaur was appointed Commissioner of the Canadian Football League.

It seems like a roundabout way of trying to express myself, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not as talented as some of the other debaters in this room, but I'm going to speak from the heart and hope that it's understood and accepted. But, Mr. Speaker, Jake Gaudaur was actually appointed as the Commissioner of the Canadian Football League and he still is. But now to get back to some of the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Springfield where he accused the opposition of filibustering, obstructing the business of the House, frivolous and nonsensical and cute remarks. I think their intention, Mr. Speaker, is to divide and conquer, but Mr. Speaker, it's a lost cause. We are a unified force on this side, Mr. Speaker, and we will remain a unified force. Filibustering, to be accused of filibustering, Mr. Speaker, with the threat of closure because we are filibustering, we are obstructing the business of the House. I heard the remark, we do not want to impose closure but, Mr. Speaker, by so stating, I think that is a threat. I think that, in a round about way, he was threatening, we will be imposing closure.

That's what he was saying. I don't like to be threatened; I have stated before, I don't like to be threatened. Mr. Speaker, I believe that he is trying to set us up.

He also indicated some of the candidates that were vying for the leadership of the party and I feel very very dejected; I feel very very hurt. I thought that all Progressive Conservatives would have an equal chance at running for the Leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, including some of the backbenchers, Mr. Speaker. I don't rise as often as some of the others, but when I have something to say, I will get up and say what I have to say and no threat of closure is going to stop me from speaking my mind. I was put here by the electors in the Niakwa Constituency and I will not be accused of filibustering; I am representing my constituency when I get up to talk and I cannot be accused of filibustering, Mr. Speaker; and I can't speak on it enough. I just don't want people to think that we are filibustering. We have things to communicate in this House and that's what we are here for, to communicate our feelings to the government so that they can be guided accordingly.

I have pleaded and I am pleading, Mr. Speaker, please do not invoke closure. It is not to the best interests of the Francophone. I'm not concerned about myself but if the Francophone would consider the consequences of closure, it wouldn't even be mentioned in threatening gestures or even in jest, Mr. Speaker.

I have a couple of other things that I wanted to speak about. I know that I'm going over the 10 minutes that I had mentioned a little earlier, Mr. Speaker, but I know I am allowed a little bit of extra time so that I will carry on. I have just a few more things that I wanted to relate.

Yesterday, when I was giving you some information on the news release from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, I was running short of time and I wasn't able to complete all of the remarks that I wanted to make about it; and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will go back to the news release and read some of the items and possibly make some remarks about it.

Mr. Speaker, it starts off, "A very significant majority of the members of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and also a very large percentage of the citizens of this province oppose the amendments to Section 23 of The Manitoba Act, as presented by the Government of Manitoba. It is not that we oppose French language services where it is needed or requested." Mr. Speaker, that's straightforward, not that we oppose French Language Services where it is needed or requested. I support the same things, Mr. Speaker.

"But we feel that the application of such service should be entirely up to the Provincial Government to administer and should not be entrenched in the Constitution and left to the decision of the courts of law in Canada to enforce. We agree that the minority groups in our province should be protected from injustices by the majority." A true statement of fact, Mr. Speaker, which we all support, but not to the point where it could and will give the minority the power to rule the majority through the courts, thus destroying the democratic rule. Mr. Speaker, true words, spoken right from the heart and actually acceptable to both sides of the House, the government and the opposition.

I'm not going to read it all, because I had started on it before and there are already many other items that I wanted to present, rather than be accused of

trying to stall the presentations and be accused of filibustering, Mr. Speaker, so I'll carry on without reading the whole thing because I really don't want to waste the time of the House reading things that might not be considered significant in this particular debate.

"As already pointed out previously, Section 23 of The Manitoba Act should be left intact and, if amended at all, it should be amended to include the 1890 Manitoba Provincial Languages Act that has formed and shaped our province into what it is today, over the last 93 years. The proposed amendment will not limit any future court action against the province; on the contrary, it will open up possible court action against the government departments. It is one of the most dangerous steps any government has contemplated under existing conditions and could leave a never-healing scar on the citizens of Manitoba, regardless of their ethnic background and nationality." That scar would also be on the people, the Franco-Manitobans, Mr. Speaker, and at this point I'm speaking on their behalf.

I'm missing out a little bit, Mr. Speaker, and it's not that I'm picking out particular things that are to my advantage; I'm just trying to highlight this news release.

"The first amendment, namely Section 23(1), which states, 'English and French are the official languages of Manitoba,' overwhelmingly proves the intent of the amendment and leaves the door wide open for a complete and comprehensive federal controlled bilingual program. We say that this program is too costly; it is not practical as a dual language program. It is cumbersome and unworkable." I'm going to conclude on this particular item, Mr. Speaker, by stating the last line, "And most importantly, it is not needed in Manitoba."

Mr. Speaker, the people who are expecting this government to be fair in calling meetings to listen to them are in for a bit of a surprise. I stated before, we had proof that they are not everything they say they are. They are not the open-minded government accepting presentations. They have proved to me, Mr. Speaker, that they are not as open minded as they state to the public; and there will be many disappointed people who are prepared to make presentations because, if it's not to the convenience of the committee, I'm sure they won't be allowed to make those presentations. The committee won't bend to the people making the presentations. The people making the presentations will have to bend to the time periods of the committee because that is what has happened in the past. This is not a hypothetical thing, Mr. Speaker; I speak from experience.

I can't understand why they are trying to ram it through, why they are in such a big hurry. We have warned them before that, once this is rammed through, it is almost irreversible. They can, and should, make many changes at this time in consultation with the opposition, and an all party committee should be formed to listen to the people of the Province of Manitoba and come back with a report to this Legislature.

I give them another warning, Mr. Speaker, go slow, go slow. Don't run and jump into the hole not knowing how deep it is or how much water there is. There are many things that you've got to be aware of.

The Premier announced a tightening up of the wording in some of the different legislation that is going through, particularly The Consumers Act. I don't know

why he wouldn't tell us what the tightening up of the wording was going to be for The Consumers Act, and why he wouldn't tell us if there was going to be any changes in the wording in this resolution that's before us right now, Mr. Speaker, and put everybody's mind at ease. He's got people dangling from a string, people who are getting ready to make presentations and I'll tell you when they come to make the presentations, Mr. Speaker, they're going to be disappointed because things could change. Maybe it's all for the best and maybe I have fears that this government will not listen to these people making presentations, when in fact they will be listening. I hope that that's the case. I have to see it so that I can believe it. The government looks like they are trying to protect the rights of minority groups. Those minority groups really don't know what to expect. To entrench these rights into the Constitution for the Francophone does not necessarily mean that these same rights or any additional rights will be given to the other minority groups.

The minority group that is discussed in this resolution is the Francophone minority group, no other group, Mr. Speaker. I think that the other groups are going to be very very disappointed, and rightly so, because they are coming in support of this resolution and they're going to find out because they were thinking to support the resolution for what additional benefits that their groups might get, they'll find out, and will be very sadly disappointed. I think that these other groups are being led down the garden path, Mr. Speaker. They really don't have anything to go by except the promises of this government, and we know what this government's promises are worth, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to get back to one other item, Mr. Speaker, where the discussion of this resolution was made and trying to correct a very touch situation, by the way - the discussion was made between the Federal Government, the Liberals and the Provincial Government, the New Democrats, with the advice of the Society Franco-Manitoban, because they were the group that were considered to be the spokesmen for the French community in the province. Rightly or wrongly, they were considered to be the spokesman for that group, and since that time I found out that there are many Francophones in the province who do not consider the SFM to be their spokesman, but that's beside the point, they were considered to be the spokesman.

Now, the thing that was being discussed was a resolution to unify the people of the Province of Manitoba, not to separate the people of the Province of Manitoba, but a resolution to unify the people of the Province of Manitoba, and they were using some of the advice of the SFM.

Mr. Speaker, I've just got to bring to your attention that a short time ago, when Quebec was considering a resolution to separate from Canada, the Society Franco-Manitoba supported Quebec leaving Confederation. They are on record as supporting Quebec leaving Confederation. Thank God, Mr. Speaker, the Referendum was defeated. I wore a big button, no, no please do not leave Confederation, because I have a feeling for all of Canada, including Quebec. But the Society Franco-Manitoban, which were the group that were supposed to help keep the Province of Manitoba together by assisting these two levels of government,

were the ones that supported separation and this is the group that was asked to give advice on how could keep Manitoba together. Mr. Speaker, I think that there could have been another group that was asked for advice rather than this one.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the government is now arranging or thinking about an all party committee to travel the province and come back with a report to this Legislature. I think that it would relieve them of the danger of proceeding at this point and relieve them of the criticism if it's an all party group. I would be more than happy with my feeling towards the Francophone and other ethnic groups to serve on this all party committee, Mr. Speaker, so that we can give the people of the province the true feeling of all of Manitoba.

I don't want to rush this bill through and destroy a lifetime of support and friendly feelings towards a particular group. I don't want to lose the years of support of the immersion schools, the Francais schools, the French culture and everything that goes with it, Mr. Speaker, and I see that this resolution could do nothing except destroy my feelings and the close associations that we have had with one another, the association between the Francophone and the Anglophone, the Anglophone and the Francophone and Francophone and the Francophone.

I think that there has to be some trust without written contracts, Mr. Speaker. I've seen too much trust misplaced. I've trust and the truth and agreements broken, Mr. Speaker, in the guise of punishing one another, in the guise of, you broke it first, and things of that nature. Mr. Speaker, I don't like it. I think we've got to forget about all of the criticism, the accusations, and the ulterior motives of why we went into Speed-up, the accusations of filibuster, and the accusations not direct, but insinuated, of bigotry and prejudice, Mr. Speaker, the insinuated accusations. I'm not posing it at anyone in particular, Mr. Speaker, I'm just saying we've got to forget about this things. We can't keep carrying on in the manner in which we are, where these things are hanging over your head all the time. I hope that I'm not brought to task for some remarks that I might make innocently. I don't think that there's a prejudiced bone in my body, Mr. Speaker, but if something turns out that I don't know to be prejudice toward a particular group, I hope I might be forgiven.

I'm going to cite a particular case, Mr. Speaker, where I'm not sure really what prejudice is. My mother taught me to respect one another, to respect the different groups and I thought she taught me well. I was refereeing another football game, Mr. Speaker, where there were two teams playing. It was a junior game, and one player on one side called the player on the other side a Wop. Now, to my intention, Mr. Speaker, I thought that was a vulgar term and was discriminatory, and I initiated a penalty against the team, against the fellow who had made the remark. Mr. Speaker, after the game, both the fellow who made the remark and the one that the remark was made to approached me and said: "Mr. Kovnats," as I well known in those days, "Mr. Kovnats, it wasn't a bad remark. The fellow who I called a 'Wop' is my best friend," and he said, "I'm Italian also." I said, "Well, I just misunderstood."

I hope that we're able to be more understanding, Mr. Speaker. That was the intent of telling this story.

I hope that we can all be more understanding, and that we would understand that our motives in not supporting this resolution are not anti-French motives, but for the best interest of all Manitobans, Mr. Speaker. That's the reason that I related the story concerning the remarks made during the football game.

I don't think that a person's ethnic background is a subject for debate. I have taken advantage of it, Mr. Speaker, and I know that I've taken advantage of it. I don't like it, but I have done it and I freely admit that I've done it. I'm going to try not to in the future, Mr. Speaker, because it's not to the advantage of all of the minority groups. My whole life has revolved around rules, Mr. Speaker, and I think that there's got to be a rule of this House - it's the golden rule, Mr. Speaker - not just rules that are set down in: Thou must not steal and things of that nature. When I look across at Moses there with his finger up in the air and ready to make some remarks to the members of the government where he's telling them, please, you know, go slow, don't pass this resolution too quickly. I can see that, Mr. Speaker, I'm sort of paraphrasing what I might believe him to be saying, and he's saying, go slow to the government. Don't pass this resolution without due consideration, Mr. Speaker. That is what he is saying.

I hope that closure is not invoked. I plead with the government not to invoke closure, because all it will do is destroy everything that I believe in, Mr. Speaker. It will separate the communities in the Province of Manitoba, the communities that I feel that I can walk into and feel at home in any community, be it French or German or Italian or Jewish or Greek or possibly even English communities.

I think that we haven't gone that far, Mr. Speaker, I think that we are still in the position to come out of this, all of us, in a good position and not be accused of mismanagement. I don't want to accuse the government of mismanagement, and I think that they have the opportunity of drawing back to the point where they're not going to proceed with this resolution and they can come out - and it's not irreversible at this point - they can come out of it still with their heads high, Mr. Speaker. You know, you always try to allow somebody, without closing the door, you always allow them to retreat with dignity, and they still have the opportunity of retreating with dignity and not be accused of any wrong doings, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not going to get down on my knees and beg them not to invoke closure and not to proceed with it, but they know my feelings. I guess if I can stop this resolution from proceeding any further until we have an intersessional committee, Mr. Speaker, I guess I would get down on my knees and beg them, because I think it's that important to the people of the Province of Manitoba.

Again, I was going to make some references to some of the letters that the Honourable Member for Elmwood had gone through, and he had cited two or three letters. I've been getting carbon copies of his letter, Mr. Speaker, so I know that what he speaks is the truth and he's not exaggerating.

This bill, all I can see this resolution doing, Mr. Speaker, is to promote hate and bigotry and prejudice. That's what it'll do. That's not what the government wants. They know that they're going to have to suffer the consequences and yet they insist in proceeding. I

think that there's still time to go back to Square One, Mr. Speaker, without going through all the trials and tribulations that they have gone through before. We have learned through some of these things that have happened, and now if we start again, I think that we will not make the same mistake, at least the government will not make the same mistake.

We have been debating this resolution and the government has accused us of wandering from the resolution, Mr. Speaker. There have been all kinds of issues.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I wasn't watching the time, how much time do I have left?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has six minutes remaining.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Six minutes. Oh, it was my intention not to speak longer than 10 minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I had such important information to impart to the government that time just seemed to run away from me, Mr. Speaker, and I'll try to hurry and I have so much stuff.

I wanted to make some remarks about the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose du Lac. Is it still Ste. Rose du Lac, or just Ste. Rose? I wanted to make some remarks about the Member for Ste. Rose, because we have agreed on a few things in the past, Mr. Speaker, when we were government and he was opposition, and now that he is in government and I'm in opposition, we have agreed on something and I wouldn't want that rumour . . .

A MEMBER: He had that very seat.

MR. A. KOVNATS: That's right. As a matter of fact he was sitting in this seat, and I wouldn't want that rumour to get around because, you know, it's not to everybody's best advantage to have anybody know that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose is a friend of mine, because in these trying times, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be ostracized by my party and I don't want to be criticized by his party.

Mr. Speaker, we have been accused of delaying tactics, we've even been blamed for breaking the rules and the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose did make a remark on points of order, that weren't really points of order and they were just delaying tactics on both sides, Mr. Speaker.

A MEMBER: He said that.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, he did. Mr. Speaker, he did say that, and I'm telling you, I support what the honourable member has stated. May I have my tongue cut out for saying those remarks, but I just have to. Anyway, but on these points of order, we have been accused of employing a delaying tactic, Mr. Speaker. It was not our intention to employ a delaying tactic. Mr. Speaker, we have been working as the people who have elected us wanted us to do, to represent them in the House.

I would just ask one question, Mr. Speaker, and I guess I'm down to about three minutes now - two minutes. I just want to advise the government, that in

their negotiations, they don't seem to be negotiating to the best interests of all of the people of the Province of Manitoba. The negotiating with the Federal Government - you know, I would think that there is already a negotiation with the Federal Government, it's a fait accompli. This resolution is superfluous because it is already done, Mr. Speaker. We are just trying to bring them back to their senses. They have negotiated away the rights of the Franco-Manitoban, thinking that they are protecting the Franco-Manitoban, but they have negotiated away those rights, just like they have negotiated away the Power Grid, they negotiated away the potash development, they've negotiated away the aluminum plant, and they've negotiated away the confidence of the people of the Province of Manitoba for a few votes that they already had. They are not going to get any more votes out of it, Mr. Speaker; they will not lose any votes out of it because the people who are supporting them have already indicated their support. They will lose a few votes, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure of that.

The NDP Government is like a ship sailing into the sunset. Bon voyage.

A MEMBER: Without a rudder.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on this evening, the Minister of Energy and Mines accused members on this side of not allowing the people of Manitoba the opportunity to be heard. Mr. Speaker, obviously he did not recall - I believe the day was June 17th - the day that the Attorney-General introduced the resolution into the House and made a ministerial statement on it and our leader attempted to obtain a clear, definitive statement from the Premier that there would be public hearings and, Mr. Speaker, he was unable to obtain that clear, unequivocal statement from the Premier that day. As a result of that, members on this side of the House objected and emphasized our objections by moving adjournment of the House. So it is entirely wrong for the Minister of Energy and Mines to accuse members of this side of refusing to let the public of Manitoba be heard because, without the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition and the members on this side, the government would have rammed this resolution through the Legislature without any public hearings whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Energy and Mines continued to emphasize that point. Let us imagine, just for a moment, if the government had pushed through their resolution last weekend as they wanted to do and as we know, because they had scheduled advertising of meetings of a legislative committee for yesterday and today. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, calling the public of Manitoba to meetings before a legislative committee in this building yesterday and today when we are setting heat records in the province? It's something like 106 degrees Fahrenheit in Brandon, something like over 100 degrees - very close to 100 degrees - in the City of Winnipeg today, and this government is telling us that it wants to hear the people of Manitoba, it wants them to come forward in this building - the members all know how

hot it is on a normal summer day in the legislative committee rooms in this building - and they're saying they wanted them to come to the meetings which they had hoped to hold yesterday and today in this Legislature, and they accuse us, Mr. Speaker, of obstruction.

I suggest to you that the people of Manitoba who wish to make representations to a legislative committee on this subject are thankful indeed that the Progressive Conservative Party has pushed for an intersessional committee to meet sometime in the fall, at a time when the public have returned from their vacations, returned from their holidays and we have more reasonable temperatures in Manitoba for holding meetings in this Legislative Building. It is entirely unreasonable and totally unreasonable for the members of the government to be suggesting to the people of Manitoba that these important legislative committee meetings, to which many members of the public wish to make representations, should be held at this time of the year, entirely unreasonable.

Mr. Speaker, members of the opposition, in the last few days have followed this tack of accusing members on this side of not wanting to hear the public. Again, Mr. Speaker, it was the members on this side of the House that pressed and prodded and forced the members of the government to commit themselves to holding public hearings. So that criticism will simply not wash in the light of the evidence of what has gone in this House and with the speeches and the demands and the requests that have come from this side of the House for public hearings at a time that is convenient to the public of Manitoba.

We also have expressed the concern - and it is again one of the reasons why we want an intersessional committee to meet - that we want the public of Manitoba to know the real facts with respect to this matter. We do not want it to be rushed through the Legislature while members of the public are only in receipt of the information that the government has put out to date, because we have very great concerns about the accuracy of the information that is being put out.

The first piece that was put out by the Attorney-General indicated, for example, in the "Constitutionally Speaking" newspaper, that Manitoba entered Confederation as a bilingual province. Mr. Speaker, it is incorrect to make that statement. Manitoba entered Confederation in 1870, in The Manitoba Act, and French and English were specifically referred to as the languages that could be used in the Legislature, in the courts and were to be used for the publication of statutes. For only those limited purposes were French and English to be used, so Manitoba was not a bilingual province.

The paper went on to say, on the first page, "By 1986, new Manitoba laws and regulations are to be enacted in both languages." That's under the agreement. "Without this agreement, we would have to begin immediately." That is an outright error and you, Mr. Speaker, would appreciate that, because I'm sure, with your great interest in the law, Sir, you have taken the occasion to read the decision of the Bilodeau case, the case out of which this controversy has arisen and you know, Sir, that Mr. Bilodeau did not succeed in the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the majority judgment of Chief Justice Freedman said that the word

"shall" in Section 23 was to be interpreted as directory only and not mandatory and to state that, without this agreement, we would have to begin immediately, Mr. Speaker, is incorrect. We were embarked in this province upon a process of translating the statutes into both languages, into the French language. It was being done under our government and under this government in a reasonable, practical way, using all of the resources that could be obtained to complete that enormous task; so, Mr. Speaker, there is an error in that particular section of the newspaper and I'm not referring to all of the errors. In the inside page to suggest that, quoting from the newspaper, "Leading experts advise that if the Supreme Court ruled against Manitoba legal chaos might have fallen." Well, Mr. Speaker, to refer to the advice of legal experts without also saying to the people of Manitoba that the legal experts have said that it is unlikely that the province would lose and, for example, in the opinion of Mr. Twaddle that the province has an excellent chance of winning the case.

It's a case, Mr. Speaker, of only including part of the information and not all of the information and surely if Manitobans are going to be called upon to express their views, to express their position they are entitled to know all of the facts of the case and to have all of the information. When the government spends the taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker, to send out information that is inaccurate and does not reflect all of the facts and all of the information that the government has on such an important issue, it is extremely disconcerting to me as a Manitoban and should be to any citizen of this province, that the perception certainly can be made that the government is trying in some way to hoodwink the citizens of this province by not giving them all of the information. Surely governments, Mr. Speaker, should have some trust and some confidence in the ability of the citizens of this province to make up their own minds. Why not put out to them all of the correct information, Mr. Speaker, rather than trying to trick them as the Attorney-General tried to do in this first pamphlet?

Then, Mr. Speaker, he has now issued another pamphlet and this one contains a great deal of errors. He states in this pamphlet that today Manitoba is able to fulfill its constitutional obligations. What constitutional obligations, Mr. Speaker? We were fulfilling - and still are I hope - our constitutional obligations imposed upon this province in the Forest case. We were embarked upon the translation of all of the statutes of this province, doing what we could and this government has done what they could using outside resources and other translators from the Federal Government and the University of Moncton and all of the resources that can be obtained to fulfill that task. What other constitutional obligations have we? You, Mr. Speaker, I know will have read Section 23 and will have read The Manitoba Act. That is the only constitutional obligation that the province has.

I have said this before, Mr. Speaker, the government should not try to fool the people on this particular issue to say they are being forced to enter into this agreement because of some legal or constitutional obligation, because that is not justified. There is no basis for making that argument, Mr. Speaker. If they want to say they are doing it because they think it is right, because they think it is just, because they think it is equitable and

we are making a policy decision to do it, then that's fine. We can deal with it on that basis. But don't try and fool the people and say that you're doing it as part of a legal or constitutional obligation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they went on again to say, "By 1986 new Manitoba laws are to be enacted in both languages. Without the amendment this would be required now." Again, Mr. Speaker, certainly it's required and the province was embarked upon that course of action. They go on to say that by 1987 people requesting service in French will be served in French by certain specified provincial departments and agents. Again, Mr. Speaker, with the wording that is used in the proposal there should be some recognition by the government that the court is going to interpret what the right to communicate means and the other general wording that is used in the section. It is the courts that are going to determine how those services are going to be provided by the government.

Mr. Speaker, I know it's been said by others but it is fundamental and I attended informational meetings in Dauphin and Brandon, where the public asked for the wording of the proposal. Now the government has spent a great deal of money advertising. To this government, spending money on advertising seems to be no problem at all. There seems to be no lack of funds for that particular purpose. Why hasn't the government in some of this material in advertisements put in the wording, at least, certainly the parts of the wording that have caused concern and people should be entitled to see and read for themselves? But they haven't, Mr. Speaker, and people at the informational meetings have asked for it and it wasn't available to them. Mr. Speaker, people need that kind of information in order to be able to express an opinion and make the decision as to whether or not they have any concerns. That information has never gone out and that is another reason, Mr. Speaker, why there is good cause for referring this matter to an intersessional committee rather than passing this motion immediately and calling a committee within a few days when people do not have all of the information. In many cases they only have half the information and they have a lot of incorrect information.

The pamphlet went on to say that putting this agreement into the Constitution guarantees exactly what services are legal rights. That is not true, Mr. Speaker, it is the courts that will determine what services are legal rights. For what other reason, Mr. Speaker, would the Attorney-General have put in the section that says if a person is aggrieved, he may apply to the court for an order and the court has the jurisdiction to require the government to submit a plan and if they're not satisfied, to submit another plan. That indicates clearly that the interpretation of the section by the courts may very well vary considerably from what the government has indicated and it cannot be said that these services will only be required by specified provincial departments and agencies.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the pamphlet goes on to say, "Manitoba intends to fulfill its legal obligations in a practical, just and economical way." The legal obligation, Mr. Speaker, is clear; it's only with respect to the Legislature, the courts and the statutes, Mr. Speaker. Again, that is misleading to the people of Manitoba.

The government has made great concern, Mr. Speaker, out of saying that they're saving tax dollars. Well, Mr. Speaker, under this proposal there is no guarantee that they're saving any tax dollars, because we don't know what the future is going to hold. We don't know what the right to communicate will really mean and how it will be determined and whether it, as a result of that right to communicate, it can become, indeed, a language of work, which can mean that this whole area can be expanded considerably, Mr. Speaker, and is one of the reasons why Manitobans, and Canadians in general, have great concern, because they've seen how The Official Languages Act, although supported in principle by all national parties, has been run in a very imprudent and expensive way, Mr. Speaker. That has caused concern, and that is why people don't trust this kind of legislation, Mr. Speaker. That is why they have to see the wording of the legislation, of the proposal. They have to get all of the information and they can't be expected to deal with that in a matter of a few days.

Mr. Speaker, the reasons why we have concerns about not allowing the government to call a legislative committee meeting within a matter of a few days and ram this proposal through, comes from the statements of members of this government themselves.

Back in the middle of July, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General had indicated he's prepared to discuss some details, but he's not prepared to back away from the principle of the constitutional proposal. But, Mr. Speaker, it is those kind of statements that lead us to a great deal of concern, that certainly the government is prepared to push through this proposal through committee meetings, which would meet in very uncomfortable weather, at inconvenient times, while people are away. Certainly people, everybody who is there at the time and was prepared to sit through that inconvenient warm hot weather would be heard, because we would certainly make sure that they were heard, but these kind of statements by the Attorney-General indicate that the government is not very open to any change in the proposal, no matter what Manitobans say.

Mr. Speaker, we saw that with respect to seat belts when the public hearings were cut off, when there was a list of people who wanted to be heard and they were not allowed to be heard at a subsequent meeting, Mr. Speaker.

The statements of the Attorney-General, the actions of this government at committee meetings up until now, caused a great deal of concern.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy attempted to characterize our position on this issue as a tendency towards the right of the political spectrum. I wonder what, Mr. Speaker, he thinks then about the position of the Member for Elmwood, who has indicated, I think, quite clearly that he cannot support his party on this issue, but is prepared to continue to support the NDP Party on all other social issues?

Mr. Speaker, surely his position and the position of his constituents, whom he has polled, and the position of NDP supporters across the province who have written to the government, who have written to members of this side, and who have written to the Member for Elmwood indicate, Mr. Speaker, clearly, that our party's position cannot be described as being to the right of the political spectrum.

The government should realize and do so very quickly that people from all sides of the political spectrum in this province have concerns about this issue. Mr. Speaker, that is another reason why this government should agree to the proposal that there be an intersessional committee and not a legislative hearing over the next week or so that will ram this proposal through the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, because people all across this province are very concerned about it.

Mr. Speaker, the process, even if the proposal has merit, is wrong. We listened in this House last Thursday night to the Minister of Health, who spoke glowingly of the position taken by former Premier Roblin during the 1960's with respect to French language matters. He spoke very forcefully in support of former Premier Roblin, now Senator Roblin, and certainly left the clear implication that we should seek out his advice on this particular issue as a way of guiding our position on this matter. Ironically, Mr. Speaker, as we all know now, the next day former Premier Roblin was quoted in an interview in the Winnipeg Sun indicating that the manner in which the government has handled this issue has been completely wrong. He's a man, Mr. Speaker, who goes a long way back in the public affairs of Manitoba, who was required to consider the whole question of French language education and French language services in a very thoughtful, careful, sensitive manner, and who made some very important progressive decisions in that particular area.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that certainly this whole area has been a matter of concern for the Member for St. Boniface, the Minister of Health, for many many years. But as he, Mr. Speaker, taking the Minister of Health's position on this issue, who has been so strong on this for many many years, he says to us we should listen to former Premier Roblin and then we have former Premier Roblin's advice. With Senator Roblin's advice coming through in that manner, Mr. Speaker, then surely the government also should consider Senator Roblin's advice very seriously, Mr. Speaker. Senator Roblin is saying to them, you're proceeding in the wrong way, let the Bilodeau case go to the Supreme Court, don't interfere with the judicial process, let it be decided in the Supreme Court. If you're going to change a Constitution of the Province of Manitoba on such an important subject that has caused problems in Manitoba ever since our entry into Confederation, Mr. Speaker, it's got to be done as a result of a long process of education amongst the people of Manitoba and a broad understanding and consensus on the remedies for the problem, Mr. Speaker. So, Senator Roblin is saying to the government, don't proceed in the manner that you are. The whole process is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a number of members have now referred to this matter and it cannot be over-emphasized enough. The government's attempt to push through the resolution in the manner in which they have, in the process that they have, are causing, amongst the people of this province, extreme strife and division, Mr. Speaker. People are becoming openly anti-French, so that the very people who the government is intending to assist and help are being harmed by the government's actions, Mr. Speaker, and they are opening wounds that have become closed in the last number of years. They're opening those wounds and those wounds will remain

open for many many more years, no matter what happens now, I think unfortunately, to this resolution. It is this government that will be responsible and is responsible for what is happening in Manitoba today. Mr. Speaker, it is a matter for which they should bear no pride whatsoever and they should seriously consider the whole process of what they are attempting to do and the effect it is having on the people of Manitoba, because it's not a good thing for the people of Manitoba and for the French people whom the government purportedly is attempting to assist.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy and Mines again said the members on this side should try to talk to the resolution, try to talk to the amendment that is before us, which is to refer the proposal to an intersessional committee. I think all of my remarks have been addressed to that amendment, Mr. Speaker.

Another reason, obviously, for the referral to an intersessional committee is exhibited in the actions taken by municipalities throughout this province. There's a substantial number of municipalities, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs knows, who want to hold referendums on this subject. The City of Winnipeg — (Interjection) — The Minister of Municipal Affairs says he doesn't know, indicating he doesn't know. Well, Mr. Speaker, therein probably lies the problem, therein lies the problem. The Minister of Municipal Affairs doesn't know how the municipalities in Manitoba feel on this subject. He thought he had their support; Mr. Speaker. Therein lies the problem. The government doesn't know what is happening amongst the people of Manitoba. The Minister responsible for municipal corporations in this province doesn't know what the municipal leaders want to do.

The City of Winnipeg Council had a motion before it; they didn't hold a referendum. It is being considered by its Executive Policy Committee meeting a week from today. Obviously, there may be a resolution going to their council meeting the following week. Mr. Speaker, surely that should be reason for a great deal of concern amongst this government as to what they are doing.

I had the privilege of being Municipal Affairs Minister under our government for a period of two years, and if I learned anything during that period of time, it was that we are favoured in Manitoba with municipal leaders who are extremely conscientious and who know the feelings and the views of the people that they represent. They are indeed, Mr. Speaker, closest to the people, the level of government that is closest to the people. It deals with them on a daily basis and they know how the people feel and we have a significant majority of municipal corporations from outside the City of Winnipeg who want to hold referendums. We had the matter before the Executive Committee of the City of Winnipeg Council, who may want to hold a referendum.

The Attorney-General says to us, "But they don't understand." Even if the Attorney-General is correct, and I don't say that he is correct, but even if he were correct then surely, Mr. Speaker, that is not good enough. You can't pass a constitutional amendment with that degree of opposition and say, we're doing it, we know we're right; they don't understand, all of the municipal leaders in the province don't understand, because it will never be accepted. Even if it's right, it will never be accepted, and that's the wrong process, Mr. Speaker, for amending the Constitution of the

Province of Manitoba. That's what Duff Roblin was trying to say to the government in that interview in the Winnipeg Sun last week; and the government has to consider the views so widely held among municipal leaders throughout the province, and the municipal leaders are saying, there's too much concern among all of our constituents on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, in the light of that concern expressed by municipal leaders, surely the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and perhaps even the Minister of Urban Affairs, next week, after the Executive Committee, if indeed they do support a referendum, will say to their Cabinet colleagues, look, the elected municipal politicians, who they deal with every day, the respective Ministers, are saying to us there's a lot of concern about that. The best advice that I can give to the government, I would hope the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Urban Affairs would say is, look, these people know their communities; we have to listen to them. This whole matter is not acceptable.

MR. SPEAKER: Order.

HON. A. ADAM: I was wondering if the member would submit to a question.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I would love to, but there's little time left. If there is sufficient time at the end, I would, and if there's not, I'd be glad to speak to the Minister and give him some good advice outside the House.

It's interesting to note that - and I believe it is correct, but I stand to be corrected - I've been told by the leaders of the SFM that what is most important to French-speaking people in the Province of Manitoba is French language education. French language education is not in the Constitution. It's not in this proposal; it's in legislation begun by Premier Roblin in the 1960's. If indeed, Mr. Speaker, that is the matter that is most important to French-speaking people in Manitoba and it's not in the Constitution and things are going well, a question is raised, why does the balance of this proposal have to be in the Constitution, entrenched in a way that the legislators of the Province of Manitoba will determine how it is to be enforced - pardon me, the courts will determine how it is to be enforced, not the legislators of the Province of Manitoba, elected by the people?

I just raise that concern, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is a valid one. I think that people on both parties in this House would agree; I don't think either party in this House is going to away with French language education, both sides of this House have agreed to provide French-speaking services where reasonable, so there's just no need, at this point in time, to cause the divisions that are being caused in our community by the type of action that is being proposed by the government.

In one last area, Mr. Speaker, that I think is most important, that I must refer to and it's the government's so-called war on unemployment and improving the economy of the Province of Manitoba. We have been in this Legislature for a very long time. We're in the longest Session of the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder what, if any, action is being taken on this so-

called war on unemployment that the First Minister told us about last Friday. We have seen unemployment rise seriously; some 46,000 people unemployed in this province. We see very disturbing statistics and predictions for the Province of Manitoba. My colleague, the Member for Sturgeon Creek, referred to some of those statistics in question period the other day, Mr. Speaker, and the responses from the Minister of Economic Development were not very encouraging to us nor to Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, this is the area that this government should be concentrating on because in so many of these very significant areas, retail sales, investment, Manitoba under this government is lagging far behind in eighth, ninth, tenth position. When it comes down to the difficulties of the fall and the winter when unemployment rises, when the consumer price index is rising in this province, and more and more taxes are being imposed upon the people of this province in the way of the payroll tax and the sales tax and further increases, Mr. Speaker, there are unfortunately going to be more and more unemployed people in this province and this government is doing nothing about it. The economy is performing now so badly that we hear the Minister of Finance announce his restrictions on increases in grants from zero to 5 percent. Now what is that going to do, Mr. Speaker, to mill rates in the City of Winnipeg and other municipal corporations with that degree of support from this government in the economy that they have produced in Manitoba? Mill rates are going to soar. The president of the university is saying that tuition rates are going to soar or enrolments are going to be limited; there are going to be restrictions on health care, cutbacks. The Member for Fort Garry referred yesterday to some of the difficulties that the government and the people of Manitoba are facing in that area.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the government agreed to the amendment that the Member for Fort Garry has introduced and the sub-amendment, allow intersessional committees and they get on with what is really the most important problem for Manitobans and that's the economy and that's creating employment opportunities, because that's the area of greatest concern for Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, the position announced by the Minister of Finance is going to create difficulty throughout the province and all agencies in the schools and hospitals, cities and municipalities that depend heavily on government grants. This government may now be learning, Mr. Speaker, hopefully is learning, that it's the private sector and it's the economy that must develop the revenue for the government to operate all of these agencies. They've got to concentrate, Mr. Speaker, on

getting out of the way of the private sector and stop imposing huge cost impositions on the cost of doing business in the Province of Manitoba and allow the people of Manitoba to develop in the private sector, to produce permanent jobs in the private sector, so that the government can extract sufficient revenue from them to support adequately these agencies that depend so heavily on them for financial assistance and to produce jobs in Manitoba. That's where the problem on the 1980s is, Mr. Speaker. Instead, we're debating a problem that is causing serious social divisiveness throughout the province, that is not understood by the citizens of this province. The whole process is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and all of the priorities of this government, Mr. Speaker, are also wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. ADAM: I wonder if the honourable member has any time left for questions? (Agreed)

The Member for St. Norbert is quite unequivocal that the municipalities expressed a concern about the resolution and the French language services. He indicated that they knew what was going on in their municipalities; they had a feeling of what was happening. He went on to say that they are considering having referendums. I just couldn't square those two statements together; on the one hand he said they know what's happening, on the other hand he said that they're talking about having referendums to find out what the feeling is.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, they know what's happening; they know the concerns of the people of their municipalities. They have a Minister who won't listen to them, who won't cause those municipal leaders' concerns recommended to the government and they are now in the position where the only way they feel they can influence the government is by having a referendum because this Municipal Affairs Minister and this government won't listen to them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a disposition to move adjournment, so I accordingly move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).