

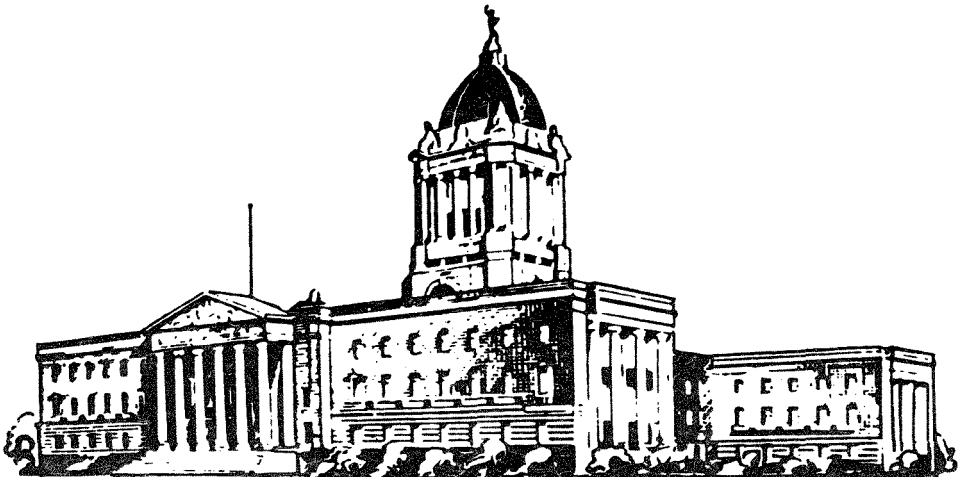


Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31-32 Elizabeth II

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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
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MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
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NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
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PLOHMAN, Hon. John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
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WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, 5 August, 1983.

Time — 10:00 a.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 . . .

(Sound system faulty for 15-minute period)

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be the question period and there are only four Ministers of the Crown here at the moment. Mr. Speaker, when we have a question period at 10 o'clock this morning, I question why the First Minister or the Minister of Labour are not here. I wonder if I could ask the House Leader to advise the Ministers that they have to be here.

A MEMBER: Do you have a question?

Jobs Fund - Advisory Committee

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have a question. In the absence of the First Minister and in the absence of the Minister of Labour, I'll have to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance is: How can the Minister inform the House that the decision to launch this massive apple-polishing advertising program of the government in the Jobs Fund was made before the Advisory Committee, which was appointed by the government? It was made before the majority of the Jobs Funds' monies were allocated to specific projects.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Well, Mr. Speaker, when you set up a program, which ultimately will involve the spending of possibly up to \$300 billion, as I indicated yesterday, of the first \$131 billion, it brought in \$80 billion from outside agencies, including the Federal Government and municipalities and the private sector.

A MEMBER: Because of advertising?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: We have to provide for some mechanism of communication of what it is that is going on. We've had members of the opposition, at one stage, complaining because of the fact that people didn't have information about programs. Now it appears that they're

complaining because there's too much information about programs. What we're talking about here in terms of the total magnitude of that expenditure, as compared to the money being expended for job creation, is somewhere in the vicinity of one-tenth of 1 percent of the total amount if we can get to the \$300 million, and it appears that will be some likelihood we will. That will require a further \$20 million input from the private sector or other components of society.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, if I could go back to the Advisory Committee, who've apparently not been consulted, in view of the fact that the government delayed the appointment of the Advisory Committee until well over half of the Jobs Fund were allocated, and in view of the fact that the Advisory Committee has only apparently met on two occasions, and a meeting scheduled for July had not materialized, and the President of the Manitoba Government Employees Association has criticized the hour long June meeting for dealing more with abstract ideas than concrete proposals, my question to the Minister of Finance is: Will he now agree that the appointment of this Advisory Committee was just another charade in the absence of this government, and that the members of that Advisory Committee have been used by the government, as well as the Manitoba Government Employees Association and their president, used for the political purpose of the government?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, certainly it would have been nice to have had these people in right from the start. We were originally working on exactly how the program would be put together, that some of the items had been decided without a great deal of input, some with no input from that group. Let's remember that the particular component you are talking about is one that is not a large percentage portion of the total amount that's being expended.

I don't recall quite frankly the July meeting. I don't recall whether it was at the request of the non-government members or at the request of government members that it was cancelled. It may well have been because of some commitment in this Chamber that it is going on a little longer than had been anticipated. I've certainly met some of the people involved in that committee and they recognize the difficulty we had in getting the operation going and appeared to be satisfied that they were having some input, and certainly they are having some input.

Jobs Fund - advertising

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that it was confirmed today in a newspaper article that a massive government advertising program has only brought 100 requests for information, can the Minister of Labour inform this House whether this horrible waste of money by the government is an attempt to prop up the image of this government, if this waste of taxpayers'

money is going to be continued through the month of August and into and through the month of September when all of the money into the Jobs Fund has been allocated?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to be able to respond to that question; part of the responses were of course received yesterday and several the day before. Because I have explained at great length that money allocated is not money yet spent and I think members opposite, having been in government, probably learned some of that over the four years that they were there, but don't seem to be . . . at this point. The increase in the number of people employed shows that we are in fact having that effect and if we don't tell the people of Manitoba that we are assisting employers in providing employment opportunities for them, then in fact they aren't going to build up. I see absolutely nothing wrong with a minimal amount of money spent on informing the public on where their tax dollars are going and where . . . line up on job opportunities.

Jobs Fund - unemployed

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the government uses the phrase, "Jobs don't just happen, they're created," will the future advertising program of the government under the Jobs Fund include the information, Mr. Speaker, that the actual unemployment rate has gone up in the Province of Manitoba from 8.9 percent to 9 percent, which is very unusual at this particular time of the year; that the actual number of unemployed have gone up from 46,000 to 47,000; and that the City of Winnipeg is one of the few cities in Canada to have its actual unemployment rate go up? Will that information be included in future advertising?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Well, it would certainly increase the cost if we included that kind of information . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. M.B. DOLIN: . . . all of the information about the labour force in this province. The labour force is growing at twice the rate of Canada as a whole. Manitoba's labour force has grown by 15,000 people from July . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Jobs Fund - applications

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister of Labour advise

the House whether or not there are sufficient applications under the Jobs Fund which, if processed and approved, would in fact use all the funds available?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any program of the Jobs Fund as a whole or programs within the Jobs Fund where we have had lack of applications. People are quite enthusiastic about all the programs within the Jobs Fund. They are always over subscribing because the people write in later and say, couldn't you do this again, or can you continue this because I think we need to keep these people employed? There is no lack of applications and no lack of will on the part of Manitobans who insist in getting people back to work.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. If there is no lack of applications, why is the government still advertising that?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Good question.

(Transcription not available - inaudible)

Bilingualism - proposed resolution

HON. S. LYON: Within the Federal Civil Service in Manitoba as well, there are two categories under The Official Languages Act known as Language at Work and Language of Service. Western Canada has always been designated unilingual for language of work, whereas areas such as the capital area, Ottawa-Hull, and New Brunswick have been designated as bilingual. The meaning, of course, is that if employees choose to work in French in a bilingual area, it means that more than the half ratio of supervisors and managers must also be bilingual.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is this: In view of the fact that the proposed amendment to Section 23 of The Manitoba Act creates French and English as the official languages of Manitoba, and in view of the fact that this could and probably will be interpreted as making Manitoba bilingual, can the Attorney-General advise us if this amendment goes through whether or not under the federal rules that apply federal civil servants will be enabled to ask for French to become language of work, thereby increasing vastly the proportion of bilingual people who will have to be hired into the Federal Civil Service in Manitoba as a result of the action of this government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: I don't seem to have sound here.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: We can hear you.

HON. R. PENNER: Lucky you. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if the Leader of the Opposition has spent the last two days dreaming up that question, that indeed it has been a waste of time. It is so rambling and remote from what is actually taking place, it's incredible that someone with the legal experience and intellectual

potential of the Leader of the Opposition could come up with something as childish as that.

The Federal Official Language Act, which governs the Federal Civil Service and is known by the Leader of the Opposition to govern and govern only the Federal Civil Service, has within it a language of the workplace requirement which has no place or part in what is being proposed here. It is a proposition which has been much criticized, which says that because the percentage of French-speaking people in the population as a whole is close to 30 percent, therefore, it would be appropriate in the Federal Civil Service that there should be roughly speaking the same number of people who speak French. In order to accommodate that, indeed that policy has gone to the extent of creating units of work in which everybody in a particular unit of work speaks French. That has nothing whatsoever to do with the proposal which is advanced here.

The proposal which is advanced here is specifically articulated in Section 23.7, and may I draw it to his attention again, not that he doesn't know it, but he wants to ignore it, the remedy that a court has is confined to 23.7, which speaks about the head or central offices of very specifically named institutions of the Government of Manitoba and speaks of that in term of communications and service. There is no language of the workplace requirement whatsoever. If, indeed, the type of thing about which the Leader of the Opposition must spend his spare time dreaming in some kind of ghoulish way, it could only happen pursuant to the Constitution of Canada, not pursuant to what we're proposing here for the Constitution of Manitoba.

HON. S. LYON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I choose to disregard the condescension and the other ideological insults that my honourable friend is so good at when he's cornered. I asked him a very legitimate question, because the question has been asked of me by people in the Federal Civil Service, will the Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker, take the question seriously because it will affect the lives of fellow Manitobans? He may not be concerned about them, but on this side of the House we are. Will he find out if the action that he and his government are taking to declare English and French the official languages of Manitoba, will have that deleterious effect by way of interpretation of The Federal Official Languages Act, so that language of work can become French in Manitoba whereas now it is unilingual English? Will he take that as a serious question?

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, I would like to remind the House that it was the Leader of the Opposition, then Premier of the province, who was speaking about official languages of the province back on September 4th of 1981. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the opening statement in the proposed amendment is merely declaratory of what the law is. When Section 23 of The Manitoba Act was written, and it talked about the language of the Legislature, of the courts, and of the records of the Legislature, it was dealing with all of the official institutions of government as between the executive, the government and the judicial branches of government and was delineating therefore a language requirement with respect to all of the official institutions and therefore making these languages the official languages of the province.

The statement which is declaratory in the proposed amendment has no greater effect than that, because all that is being added is with respect to services to be provided by the Government of Manitoba and is official only as delineated in the proposed amendment. It has no wider ambit than that, and to suggest that something which is declared specifically as part of the Constitution of Manitoba, as an amendment to The Manitoba Act, can in some magical way, by some legal sleight of hand, bring in a federal statute, defying any legal logic or analysis of which I'm aware. It is just absolutely impossible, absolutely incomprehensible, so the answer to his question is no, no, no. It cannot happen in the way in which he suggests, because he wants to frighten the people of Manitoba, rather than deal with the real issue.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I take it then from the categorical answer given by the legal genius who parades as Attorney-General of this province, the categorical answer that he gives is that this could have no effect on federal hirings or language of work in Manitoba under the federal law. Is that his final answer? I merely ask him, Mr. Speaker, to look into it. He has chosen to be categorical; he's chosen to be smart. If he doesn't want to look into it, fine. Let it rest on his head. Let his last word be the final word on that and then let the storm brew around him.

HON. R. PENNER: I do get a little worried, Mr. Speaker, when people speak of my last words. Presumably, what was meant by last words, with respect to this question. — (Interjection) — The notion that a constitutional provision which speaks in virtually every line of an obligation of the Government of Manitoba, that somehow or other that can impose some requirement on the Federal Civil Service is astonishing. I mean even to be suggested by way of a question is an astonishing, not leap of logic because there's no logic to it, but an astonishing leap of imagination that has no root in logic. It is simply not possible under our legal system and our division of powers for an obligation of the Government of Manitoba, imposed within its Constitution and its parts of the Canadian Constitution, to affect the Federal Civil Service. It is just not possible.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, has the Attorney-General thereby indicated from his categorical answer that he will not make inquiries with the Federal Government to determine whether the ill-considered agreement that he has laid before this House will or will not have ramifications within Federal Civil Service hirings in Manitoba? Is he refusing to make that inquiry on behalf of Manitoba citizens?

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not . . .

HON. S. LYON: Yes or no.

A MEMBER: Don't you tell us how to answer.

HON. R. PENNER: . . . within my administrative competence to phone the Federal Government and pose questions to the Federal Government about what might

happen to the Federal Civil Service. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to make a laughing stock of himself, then I invite him to pick up the phone. There's a toll-free line if you're short of money and you can phone the Federal Government and you put that question to them, but I would suggest that when you do you better put in your ear plugs to drown the sound of laughter that will come back.

HON. S. LYON: Then, Mr. Speaker, are we, in the opposition, and the people of Manitoba to take that this Attorney-General has negotiated in private an agreement with the Franco-Manitoban Society and the Federal Government of Canada without inquiring what the ramifications of that agreement would be, if instituted as an amendment to our Constitution on people being hired into the Federal Civil Service in Manitoba? Is he actually telling us that this morning?

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, he might as well have asked me this question: When you were discussing the proposed amendment to the Constitution of Manitoba with respect to French language services to be delivered by the Government of Manitoba, did you inquire of anybody what effect it might have in Argentina? I mean that would have made as much sense, why you abandon your duty as the Attorney-General of Manitoba by not asking what it might do to the price of iron in China. It has that much relevance. It's just absolutely ludicrous that anyone who has a modicum of legal knowledge or any kind of knowledge of the working of our federal system would even imagine the requirement of asking that kind of question.

Let's say we're talking about what the Government of Manitoba proposes to do in a limited way about services that it will deliver to those of our population who have the historic right to the use of their language. How will it affect the Federal Civil Service? The answer, obviously, therefore the question need not be asked, is that in no way, shape or form can it affect the Federal Civil Service. Answer, in no way, shape or form can it affect the Civil Service, and that answer I will continue to give again and again, as any lawyer, freshly out of law school, or perhaps still past first year, would give that answer.

Payroll tax - federal

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, a final question to the Attorney-General. Are we and the people of Manitoba then able, Sir, to accept with the same degree of certainty the Attorney-General's opinion on the legitimate question I've asked him this morning, as we were unable to accept his answer last year when I asked him the very simple question, could the Provincial Government tax the Federal Government? He answered equally categorically, and we found out and his colleague, the Treasurer, found out to his chagrin, that the Attorney-General's answer in law was a mess of balderdash. Are we to be guaranteed this morning, Mr. Speaker, that we can take, with the same degree of certainty, the answer that he has given in his smart alec way today to a legitimate question as we did with the other one where he gave a 180 degree wrong advice?

HON. R. PENNER: The fact of the matter is that the advice, which was the advice of Professor Dale Gibson,

tabled in this House by me, was and remains absolutely right. We do have the legal right.

HON. S. LYON: No, you don't.

HON. R. PENNER: There speaks the papal bull. We do have the legal right.

HON. S. LYON: Go and sue then.

HON. R. PENNER: . . . Why do we have to sue? We're collecting the tax. I mean, what could be more idiotic? We're collecting a tax so we're invited to go to court to find out whether we can collect a tax? What would we do that for? We're collecting the tax; the money's coming in; it's in our coffers. Why would we go to court? It's idiotic.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, not to prolong but just to indicate to the Attorney-General, would he tell us then that if the right of the Provincial Government to tax the Federal Government on the payroll tax is so clear for everyone, why did the Federal Government not pay for the first six or nine months and why did the Provincial Government not sue them?

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, we on this side, as government, have this very strange notion that sometimes it's better to see whether or not in an honourable way you can arrive at an out-of-court settlement rather than go to court, be at each other's throats, spend years and hundreds of thousands of the taxpayers' dollar, when you can, by the simple expediency of sitting down and talking it out, come to a conclusion which is and continues to be of great benefit to the Province of Manitoba. The answer to that is really the difference between those who have the adversarial kind of notion go to court and fight, bleed all over the place, and then you'll say, well, the court made us do it, rather than seeing whether or not you can negotiate an honourable and a decent settlement.

Wild rice legislation

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. H. HARAPIAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. I have had several inquiries from people who are interested in the production of wild rice and they are wondering if The Wild Rice Act will be passed this year. I'd like to ask the Minister what's the status of The Wild Rice Act at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for giving me notice of the question and I am anxious to be able to indicate that because the season is approaching very soon, we have been looking very carefully at the possibility of an amendment to the act, which would satisfy we think in part the concerns that were voiced at the committee when the

presentations were made. Of course, that possibility will have to be reviewed with the committee, if and when we can get to the committee, Mr. Speaker, because, as honourable members know, there are very important matters that are before the House and we are anxious of course to complete all the business. I want to assure the honourable member if it's not possible to complete . . .

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

HON. A. MACKLING: Well, it's a phony point of order now.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain on a point of order.

MR. B. RANSOM: Yes, the Minister is insinuating that he has been prevented from getting his bill to committee. The truth of the matter is his bill was before a committee, which was called to meet over a week ago, and the Government House Leader cancelled the meeting.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is suggesting that the discussions, the consultations, the review that I talked about earlier on when I answered questions was all completed, and I could have been able to deal with the matter before the committee a week or 10 days ago. That is not the case, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I've had staff working on this question. We have been ready for a matter of some few days.

HON. S. LYON: Can you stick to the truth?

HON. A. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable members talk about sticking to the truth. I tell the truth in this House, Mr. Speaker, and these proposals, these drafts are now ready and it's a question of now being able to get consideration of them by the committee.

A MEMBER: Call it for tomorrow.

HON. A. MACKLING: Well, honourable members say call it for tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, they continue to try and set the rules and direct the proceedings of this House. I want to indicate that a lot of legislation is being blocked by these people and, Mr. Speaker, that does introduce problems to this government.

Bill 77 - MAST

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

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Education. In view of

the fact that the Minister refused to attend a special general meeting of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees that was called yesterday to discuss their concerns about amendments to The Public Schools Act, Bill 77, which is currently before this Legislature, does this indicate that the Minister is not concerned about the strong opinions which MAST holds on these proposed amendments?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Speaker, it does not mean that at all and the first thing I want to correct is the suggestion that I refused to attend. It's very difficult for any of us to attend anything these days, Mr. Speaker, when we're tied hand and foot to the Legislature night and day.

I must say that this is not the only meeting and the only request that we have had to turn down . . .

HON. S. LYON: . . . five, six, seven, eight, nine.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: . . . and where we have communicated that although I was unable to attend and would have liked to have been there, I was prepared to send a representative which we all know Ministers often do. Ministers could not possibly attend all of the meetings and all of the requests that are made of them. But I think it is important that an important meeting, discussing an important educational issue, which this was, that if I could not be there myself that at least my position and my answer to the questions they raised in the letter to me about this act were presented and were discussed at the meeting. That is the important issue, that I offered to take my position and the response to the questions they raised in their letter to the meeting, so at least they were presented and they knew what the government's feelings were and why.

That offer was made; it was not accepted. I was sorry to hear that, because I think that it was not as important who brought the message, but that the message was brought and heard. So there is no suggestion here that my non-attendance at that meeting means I do not see this is as an important issue and that I am not prepared to listen and discuss the issue with school trustees and all other interested parties, because they are not the only ones that are interested in this issue. And I'm very interested in the opportunity to have public discussion about it, because I think there has been a tendency or an attempt to misrepresent what due process is and that to put out a misunderstanding in the public about what it really means, and I'm delighted with any opportunity to correct that misinformation and misunderstanding.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister's suggestion that Ministers have to be in the House because of what's going on rings a little hollow when there are nine of them missing this morning. Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct, since I was in attendance at that meeting, if I may, the misimpression that the Minister has given that her letter was not considered by the meeting. It was four pages long and it was read in total, so I suggest that her . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources on a point of order.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Speaker . . .

A MEMBER: Work to improve some of your own answers.

A MEMBER: You little pipsqueak, you little twerp. Why don't you sit down?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The Honourable Minister.

HON. A. MACKLING: . . . the Honourable Member for Tuxedo asked a question and he knows the rules. You've read to him the rules time and time and again. Then he proceeded to stand in his place and make a statement, no inclination in it of a question at all, and I've been very very reluctant to rise on questions of order, because of the kind of childish chirping that takes place across the way. Mr. Speaker, they have . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, that group that says they're for law and order are the ones that break every rule in this House. Mr. Speaker, it's high time that they showed some respect, a little respect to the traditions of this House. We know about the bell ringings; we know about their petulance, at least to respect the Rules of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member for Tuxedo please ask his question?

MR. G. FILMON: I'm sorry, I thought you wanted me to respond to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo indicated he had a question, would he please pose it?

MR. G. FILMON: If I may just have the indulgence of the House, as a brief preamble — (Interjection) — fine, fine, as a new question then, Mr. Speaker. Let's say in view of the fact that indeed the letter that the Minister wrote was read in full detail to the meeting yesterday, and in view of the fact that she has suggested that members of MAST are representing her position, if she were so concerned about that, why did she not attend or send another member of the Legislature in her place to attend and provide her position to that meeting, rather than not do that and send a Deputy Minister when it was specifically said in the letter that they wanted elected representatives there only?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the school trustees were misrepresenting my position. I believe that they would not do that; I think that they would represent it as fairly as they could. I said I believed there was some misrepresentation, and I did not say

from where it was coming, but I thought there was some misrepresentation and some misunderstanding about what due process is. That is clear from the fact that when the member opposite spoke on second reading to this issue, he spoke for 40 minutes and he said the word "tenure." I didn't count the times, Mr. Speaker, but my guess is that it was five or six times, seven or eight times, and due process was only mentioned once.

There is an attempt to suggest that due process is tenure, and it is not, Mr. Speaker. Tenure is the right to lifetime employment, permanent employment and due process is the right to a hearing if you are fired, and that's all it is.

So that I object to the member opposite suggesting that I said the trustees were misrepresenting my position, because I never said that and I would not say that.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, after that lengthy response I trust I won't have any further interruptions . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . from the Acting House Leader.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is and in view of the fact that the members who attended that meeting, and it's a pity . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . that the Minister wouldn't have attended; in view of the fact that members of MAST — (Interjection) — chose or gave exactly the same interpretation to what she is doing as that which she says that I did; in view of the fact that MAST has that same interpretation, why would the Minister, if she's so concerned about their position, not have attended the meeting or sent her political representative, another member of caucus, to ensure that her position was made clear? Why would she not have done that?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I think that this is not the first occasion when I have sent the Deputy Minister as my designate, nor will it be the last. You often have to send people in your place and sometimes you send elected representatives and sometimes you send a Deputy Minister or another high official.

There has never been any question before, Mr. Speaker, nor any concern. In fact, the Deputy Minister has represented me on numerous occasions when I couldn't attend . . .

A MEMBER: And him too.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: . . . with the Trustees Association and other organizations and they were always glad to have him in my place.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: There was never any concern. When I discussed with the President of MAST the night before the meeting that I could not attend and I would

like to send a designate because I thought it was important that the position be presented and that the answers to the question be given, he agreed that it was a very important thing to do, that I was entitled, not only entitled, but it was a good idea, and he was in complete agreement that I send a designate. He never suggested that there was a problem with who that designate should be. He never said it should be this kind of person or that kind of a person. He said you are welcome to send somebody in your place. That is the way it has always been.

Perimeter (North) - exit Henderson Hwy.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Highways. For some time now there's been a traffic problem developing during rush hour for commuters wishing to exit from the North Perimeter onto the southbound lane of Henderson Highway. Is there anything that the Minister of Highways can do to alleviate that problem?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't recall whether the member was in the Estimates Committee when that item was before the committee, but he might recall - perhaps I could remind him - that at that time I believe there was indication that there were going to be installations, three or four throughout Manitoba - I think three to be precise - and that was one of the locations. I appreciate the impatience of the member, but it is my understanding that before freeze-up we should have the work complete.

Bill No. 77 - MAST

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question to the Minister of Education. I'm interested to see that she would rather send a civil servant to answer for a politically-motivated bill than someone who doesn't affect policy in this province . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MR. G. FILMON: . . . rather than sending a politician. But in view of the fact that there were representatives at that meeting of virtually every school division in this province, Mr. Speaker, and there was almost unanimous opposition . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MR. G. FILMON: . . . will the Minister withdraw the bill until she can have some further discussions and consensus with the people who represent children who want to be educated and have assurance of a future quality of education as well? Will she withdraw the bill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, there's going to be full opportunity for the members of the Trustees Association and any other organizations or individuals who wish to speak to that bill. That will be at the committee stage and at the public hearings, and there will be full opportunity for any input or any suggestions that people want to make on that bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the motion to refer the proposed amendment to Section 23 of The Manitoba Act to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections as it appears on Pages 12 and 13 of today's Order Paper, apparently standing open for debate?

ADJOURNED 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, the sub-amendment proposed by the Honourable Member for Arthur, the Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After listening to the answers that the Attorney-General gave this morning to questions posed by our Leader makes me realize - and I know my colleagues on this side of the House - more than ever how right our stand is on this issue dealing with the process.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to get this issue into an intersessional committee and the amendment reads:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee sit during recess after prorogation and report to the next Session of the Legislature, and in any case not later than December 30, 1983. Every day, everyone of us on this side of the House - I can't believe that the members on the other side of the House are not hearing from their constituents - that we either "keep it up, we're with you on this issue every bit of the way, give us a chance to be heard." I cannot believe that the members on the government side of the House are not feeling the pressures of this particular issue; the process is the issue at the moment. But, Mr. Speaker, just looking at the editorials in today's papers, the dailies, you will see that public opinion is reaching out, is demanding that they reflect the views of Manitobans today, too.

There is a column in the Winnipeg Free Press today by Fred Cleverley and it says: "Why the big hurry about bilingualism?" And I hear the Attorney-General say, "Oh my God," and I think he should be praying on this issue because he's going to need all the help he can get. "Why the big hurry about bilingualism?"

It couldn't be a bigger headline. This is what people are asking, what is the rush? What's going on? I'd like to read this article and just make certain comments on it. Mr. Cleverley starts by saying, "I would certainly like to know exactly what was agreed to among representatives of the province, the Federal Government and the Franco-Manitoban Society. The way things are going at the Legislature, there must be something more than what has been on the table; otherwise, the government appears to be risking too much in the way of political futures for too little."

We've asked the same thing, Mr. Speaker. We've asked for the agreement to be tabled, but we find now that there is nothing signed - I'm not sure if there's anything written down, or if it's written in blood, or where it's written - but we can't get a handle on what was signed, why they keep insisting on the December 31st deadline.

Mr. Speaker, we're giving them an opportunity to take this resolution out to the people of Manitoba, not just in a hot room in the Legislature in this building and not on days when we're having record heat, because that's what this government planned to do. They planned to have this House sitting, those committees sitting when we're having 90-100 degrees, where people cannot come in and then they were just going to hit and run. We're not allowing them to do this, Mr. Speaker.

Our resolve goes greater every day. Every time we hear from another constituent, every time we see something like these articles in the paper, it goes to show that our thoughts are right on this issue. We're with the people on this issue and not only with our own constituents, not only with Conservatives, but we're hearing from the NDP, we're hearing from their constituents, we're hearing from their party members: "Slow down this process; do everything you can. Let us help you hold meetings. Come out, do what you can, they won't listen to us."

It proves something, Mr. Speaker, in this whole issue, that the government must have some thoughts on this that maybe they're not doing the right thing. Maybe the Attorney-General has led them down the garden path because he wanted to go down in history as bringing this resolution in and changing the course of Manitoba and for all Manitobans. This is exactly what is happening and they're blindly following, but there is something a little bit strange about this. They have a member on their side - when the Minister of Mines and Energy spoke on this issue last night, he said, "I don't feel there is a consensus on our side of the House," meaning the opposition.

Believe me, we have a consensus. It's the government that doesn't have a consensus on this issue. Why are they allowing the Member for Elmwood to stay in his seat on this issue? He's embarrassing them every single day with questions, with questionnaires going out to the countryside in all the newspapers, holding press conferences, doing everything he can to get the government to back down on this and yet they let him sit.

On Saturday, we saw something in this House that I don't expect ever to see again. They filibustered the resolution and while they're all speaking - and I think it was Saturday that the Member for Elmwood got up and spoke - we saw a spectacle of the Minister of

Cultural Affairs standing up, and he would have been shaking his fist except he had a paper in it, and he was going like this - in his face. We had about six members standing around, heckling, haranguing, doing everything they could, and yet they let him sit here, Mr. Speaker, why? I think because what they are doing is so wrong they don't dare remove him from that spot. As much of an embarrassment as he is to them, they don't dare do anything about him on this particular issue.

Surely the backbench must wonder why the Treasury Bench is allowing this man to stay in caucus. Surely they must be asking that question - why they are allowing him to sit there and get up every day and ask questions, the same type of questions that we are asking.

A MEMBER: It's hard to keep a good man down.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What is the matter with that government? Well, I'll tell you what's the matter. They know that they're wrong in the issue. They know that they're wrong on this. Why will they not just show a little bit of common sense, a little bit of leadership in this type of issue and do what Manitobans are asking? Give us more time, let's discuss this, let's find out what is happening.

Instead, what's happening out in our province is we're having people starting to harden against the issue completely. By the time we get this out, it may be too late. The positions will all have hardened.

All we are asking is that we deal with the business in the House on all the second readings, third readings that there are and not rush through this. We're not dealing with another thing. Mr. Speaker, I want this government to understand that we can go on forever on this issue - forever! Every day people are bringing us more and more things that we can talk about. They are holding us up, helping us on this issue.

What is helping the government on this issue? - nothing, not a thing. They're not even bothering to attend this morning in any numbers and I know that's unparliamentary, Mr. Speaker, and that I shouldn't be bringing it up, but from time to time you can't help but deal with that certain issue when you look across.

"Why the big hurry about bilingualism?" The article continues: "We all know that an agreement was reached to change the Canadian Constitution to cover the delivery of French language services at the Provincial Government level. Roland Penner has told us so, and while he was at it he told us that the agreement was carved in stone, that not so much as a comma could be changed, and that it was terribly necessary to pass the matter through the Legislature before December 31st without much in the way of public discussion." Exactly, without much, in fact, they were just hoping that we would lie down and die and they could push this through and then, what a relief. We'll give it to the feds, it's out of our hands. That's not the way it's going to happen. Every newscast is covering this, it's out in the constituencies, it's all across the province, but now we also find that it's not really carved in stone. Maybe we can make some changes.

Mr. Cleverley went on to say, "Since he told us that, Premier Howard Pawley has allowed that there could

be some changes and there can be some public hearings, but even the Premier has not backed down on the necessity of getting the changes through before the Session ends. The big question is why there has to be so much hurry on so important a matter."

We've been asking this every day, Mr. Speaker, this is the third time I've spoken on this issue. Every member in this House, on this side, is the same and we'll continue to speak, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten times and we'll keep on speaking, Mr. Speaker, until this government is forced to bring in closure on this matter or until they agree to an intersessional hearing, or to abandon it altogether which makes far more sense, because the issue has turned into not just a firecracker but it's a cannon, it's explosive.

This government has managed to make an issue out of something that was proceeding along in a very nice manner. Now we have people coming out speaking on issues that really have nothing to do with this issue, but we're bringing friend against friend, community against community, and I've said that before and it still rings true and it's getting more true every day.

Mr. Cleverley went on to say: "What was agreed to is so important that it seems to have persuaded the Premier and his Attorney-General to lead their party into oblivion rather than accept a reasonable compromise."

We can all appreciate the fact that there are some French-speaking Manitobans who are terribly terribly anxious to have their language rights expanded from what they were when the province joined Confederation and to have these rights written in stone in the Canadian Constitution and, Mr. Speaker, this is what we have been saying all along, that it will be carved in stone. Once this amendment is put into our Constitution, it will be irreversible and we will have to live with the consequences. We only had listen to what the Attorney-General had to say this morning in answer to questions, he doesn't care, he doesn't know what is going to happen to us. He thinks his answer is the final one.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen time and time the Attorney-General, and he mentioned it in committee once himself, that he speaks before he thinks sometimes and I think this was a good example. He speaks before he thinks and I think it's time he turned it around and started thinking about the people of Manitoba and giving them the opportunity to tell us what they are feeling and what they are talking about and if they want this type of amendment in the Constitution. Do they want their province to be totally bilingual? It's a big issue out there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cleverley went on: "Surely, however when we're doing something as important as rewriting the Constitution, no deadline is as important as being sure that what is being done is being done correctly. It would be useless to establish in law some language rights if these rights are not acceptable to the majority of the population of the province."

We're not talking about a 51 percent majority, Mr. Speaker, we're not talking about 60, we're not talking about 75, we're talking about 95 percent, 94, 93 percent of our population. Surely, they deserve the same type of hearing that the Society Franco-Manitoban had, that the Government of Canada had - and we know where their interests lie, is making Canada totally bilingual - surely our taxpayers, our population have the same rights. That isn't the way it seems to be going.

The article goes on to say: "Having them in law in such circumstances will only increase their ability to divide Manitobans rather than becoming a force for unification in the province. Well, we've seen the division that has come about in this province, we've seen what is happening in Manitoba. We've seen where ethnic minorities are starting to call one another by their ethnic background, something I haven't heard in this province for years, something that was dying and we were all enjoying the fact that new Canadians were coming into this province and enjoying their cultural heritage and enjoying their linguistic abilities and being able to use them in their own communities and on the streets and no one cared. It was making our province into something, certainly when I was a young girl it wasn't at that time, but it is now and it's been accepted. What has this government done? It has turned something that was so good into something that now is an issue. What a shame, Mr. Speaker! How foolish!

The article goes on to say: "This, of course, is what has been wrong with Roland Penner's approach from the very beginning. Sidney Green pointed it out during the public meeting on the bilingualism resolution held at the International Inn here in Winnipeg. Penner did not stand in front of a standing room only audience and argue that he believed it was necessary to expand French language rights and entrench the expansion in the Constitution in order to further the cause of bilingualism in Manitoba. Instead, he spent most of his time telling the audience that his brand of bilingualism was not as bad as Ottawa's brand of bilingualism."

Well, I don't think the people will believe him, we don't believe him, we want to be sure. But they're trying to ram this through. They don't want to hear people tell them what has happened in Ottawa, what bilingualism has meant to civil servants in Ottawa - not just in Ottawa, but everywhere, Western Canada, everywhere. Believe me this is an issue and what a shame.

It went on to say: "He as much as said that given his druthers he would not be proposing the change at all. The devil was making him do it, the devil, in this instance was the case pending before the Supreme Court of Canada arguing the merits of a unilingual traffic ticket."

We're talking now about Mr. Bilodeau, the famous or the infamous Mr. Bilodeau. Why didn't this government let that court case continue to the Supreme Court? Mr. Speaker, every legal opinion that they've had said that the Supreme Court of Canada wouldn't have done anything different than our court here. They would not have created legal chaos in the Province of Manitoba. They would not have thrown out all the laws. They would not have thrown out the courts, even this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, that could not have happened. You can only do what is possible, Mr. Speaker.

It goes on to say, "The danger was, as Penner described it, that the Supreme Court would decide that the petitioner in the case was right and the result would be that no Manitoba law passed in only one language would be valid. Chaos would be upon us, he said. The only way out was to pay the ransom."

"Ransom," Mr. Speaker - now that's a word I haven't really heard on this issue before but, of course, that is exactly what has happened. Pay the ransom demanded by the Franco-Manitoban Society. That

ransom was to agree to expand the basic French language rights that were part of Manitoba's entrance to Confederation to the point where there was an increased obligation on the part of taxpayers of the province to provide provincial services in two languages instead of one.

Mr. Speaker, very often we hear people, we see it in newspaper articles when quoted, that all the Attorney-General is doing is restoring the rights. That's not so. That's a message that must be gotten across to the people and is now, that they understand that those rights were restored with the 1979 Supreme Court decision. This is an expansion of services - an expansion - something that the courts could never have imposed upon the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, that is such an important issue, that is why we need these intersessional meetings, hearings, so that the people of Manitoba can tell this government just how wrong they are on this particular issue. But, even at that, to hear both sides of this particular issue so that everyone can hear both sides, so that the people who are opposed can hear what members of the Franco-Manitoban Society have got to say about this issue, what their concerns are. It works both ways, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cleverley went on to say, "This, of course, is a matter of opinion. Lawyers as experienced as Penner suggest that the Supreme Court would do no such thing, that the court might, in its interpretation of the law, impose an awkward translation schedule on the province. It would not, they say, think of wiping out the very laws by which the Provincial Legislature was elected." That has been told to the Attorney-General and time again. Is he not reading what the legal counsel, Mr. Twaddle, had to say? He's not hearing anything because he's on a blind course of disaster, and he's planning to take us all along with him.

When will this government start to listen? Surely, they don't think that we want to stay here all summer. Our summer is gone. One of the nicest, hottest summers we've had in Manitoba, but we don't mind on this issue. We don't care on this issue, because we care so deeply about the issue that we're willing to give up all our time, any amount of time, and work and stay until this government finally sees the light. I'm not sure that can happen, Mr. Speaker, but we're trying our best.

MRS. C. OLESON: We live in hope.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: As the Member for Gladstone says, "We live in hope." And believe me, that's what we have, that finally, somewhere along the line, that they'll get tired and say, hold it, we believe you, we're listening to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the article goes on to say, "There must be something else that we do not know about. The issue is growing by the day. Petitions against the government's resolution are being delivered to the Premier's Office, and the talk in the countryside would lead a disinterested observer to the conclusion that the government was so possessed of bilingualism that it was quite prepared to throw its political future into the garbage can." That must be so.

I think the other day the Minister of Highways was presented with a petition of over 300 names. Is he

ignoring 300 names? I tell you, I don't ignore 300 names when they come to me from my constituents. I go out and take a look and find out what's happening. But on this issue, the only 300 names that I'm about to get is in favour of the stand I'm taking.

Mr. Speaker, we are asking that the process be allowed to go in a manner that is more in keeping with the traditions of this Legislature, an important issue like this must go into an intersessional committee, must be heard at a time, call it in September, at a time when people are back from holidays, when they have a chance to get their lives back into order, because that is what is needed and that's what we're asking of this government. I can't believe they're so stubborn on this issue, because it's not going to go away, even if they get away with it, they're out.

This article goes on: "A common suggestion in the country constituencies," I've read this before, Mr. Speaker, "that if the NDP insists on pushing through this constitutional change, it will deny itself office for as long as those now living can vote." Now, that's a long time, Mr. Speaker, but I think that's exactly what is happening. They will be out of office for that time.

Now I don't mind being a part of a government, but I don't particularly want to win an election on an issue that is so important as this. We know we're going to win the election on this issue, on many issues: the Jobs Fund, advertising, everything. Everywhere we turn around, we have got issues that this government is not going to be re-elected but, Mr. Speaker, this issue is and should be, is crossing party lines everywhere, above politics. Are they so blind that they can't see what is happening?

I don't know what power the Attorney-General has over that Cabinet and caucus, but it must be immense. I can't see how one, two or three people can rule and tell everyone, especially a government that purports to be a government of the people, open government. We're certainly not seeing it here.

The article goes on to say, "It's a high price to pay for having to push through something that cannot be changed, cannot be discussed, except with an elite group in the province and must, for reasons known only to Penner and Pawley, become law before December 31st." We don't know what there is, I'm sure I can't imagine what it is.

Mr. Cleverley went on to say, "Whatever the embarrassment the Manitoba NDP hopes to heap on the new Conservative Leader, Brian Mulroney, will hardly be worth the price of the federal seats the party now holds in Manitoba. If Penner and Pawley think Manitoba voters will stop at punishing only provincial politicians who feel compelled to impose their unbending will, they should remember that the change has to be voted upon at the federal level as well. Federal seats could be at risk also."

I don't think they've thought of that too much; I don't think they've thought that out too closely, Mr. Speaker, because at the public hearings we've had, I believe, the MP for, is it the Interlake, Terry Sargeant, stood up and spoke for this resolution.

They were so busy chortling in glee at the thought of embarrassing Brian Mulroney, that they didn't think of their own federal members. I haven't heard the MP for Winnipeg-St. James speaking out too loudly on this issue. I don't think I remember seeing any press releases

coming from him, and I don't imagine I will. And the MP for Dauphin. Mind you, I don't take the Dauphin Press, but I believe our members on this side who have read the papers are not seeing any great articles coming from that area either, so I would think that maybe they've put their federal members - not only are they taking themselves down the tube, but they're taking their federal members as well. Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that their federal members aren't in here screaming at them. Maybe they are, but as I say, Mr. Penner, the Attorney-General, pardon me, the Member for St. Boniface, the Member for Radisson, who I know are very interested, particularly in this issue, I can't believe that they are not understanding this issue, that they are able to make their caucus believe that this will die down, this will go away; it will not go away, not at any cost.

So when Mr. Cleverley said, "... they should remember that the change has to be voted upon at the federal level as well. Federal seats could be at risk also. They should talk to Manitobans, if they can find any calm enough to carry on a reasonable conversation." Oh, does that say a lot! Believe me, this is what is happening. People are getting upset; those that aren't yet, those that have been away and come back to find this is still going on, find out just what is happening, they're going to go in orbit over this. This isn't about to die down. Why is this government in such a rush?

The article goes on, "At the beginning, they had better be prepared to come clean on exactly what it was they agreed to around that negotiating table when they sat down with the federal representatives and the corporate voice for a bilingual Manitoba, which is how some French-speaking residents describe the Franco-Manitoban Society."

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good article; it's a very thoughtful article and it tells it the way we have been trying to tell it. It says something and I hope all the members on the government side will take an opportunity to read and stop and slow down. Why the big hurry about bilingualism? Finally someone is out and out asking it, from the press, because they are starting to feel the pressure. I'm sure the letters that are coming into the editor must be as heavy as anything that's coming into this Legislature, to the Premier, to the Member for Elmwood, to the Attorney-General, certainly to our leader on this side of the House. Why the big hurry?

In today's Winnipeg Sun, they've said, and I'll quote, "This is no small matter. Better to grind it out, introduce it again in the next Session if necessary, but give everybody a chance at it." Now that wasn't the way the Sun originally started out when this issue came out. That wasn't the way they were explaining to the people what was happening, because they believed the Attorney-General, but now that they have had a chance to look at it, that the newspaper editors have had a chance to look at it, they're saying, slow down. I'll repeat, "This is no small matter," the article said, "better to grind it out, introduce it again in the next Session, if necessary, but give everybody a chance at it."

Then they went on to say, the editorial, "Perhaps the Tories are right and the people of Manitoba don't want bilingualism, no matter how rationally it is approached."

Mr. Speaker, this is also something that we want the people of Manitoba, we're asking here for them to have

a chance to give that opinion, to say what they think about this, to say if they want Manitoba's course to be changed as drastically as we feel will happen if this is amended and put into the Constitution.

The editorial says, "... no matter how rationally it is approached. But the government may find that by living up to its pledge of open, accessible government, there is strong support for its legislation." That might be so; why are they afraid to find out?

If the Attorney-General, who told us there was a poll that indicated there was 70 percent support on this issue, what's to fear? We've all said it before; surely there's nothing to fear from the voters in Manitoba, from the people of Manitoba. Let them speak on the issue.

The last comment: "At the moment, by its own actions it is affirming the Tory point of view." That is true and what I pointed out about the Member for Elmwood, them allowing him to stand there, a member in their own caucus, to be able to sit in his seat and embarrass them everyday. They're allowing this - why? Because they don't dare get rid of him on this issue, they're soft on this issue.

Then the headline in the Winnipeg Free Press on the editorial says: "Take all necessary time." Finally, take all necessary time. And they say - I won't read all the article, I don't have time, but part of it is: "But this government, which has been so careful to solicit public views on education, finance, on expropriation of core area land, on Native adoptions, the list goes on and on, should be able to find the mechanism for soliciting the best ideas the province has to offer on constitutional language rights in Manitoba."

Well, we've given them the mechanism. It's in the resolution, all they have to do is vote for it and the resolution says:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the standing committee sit during recess after prorogation and report to the next Session of the Legislature and, in any case, not later than December 30th, 1983."

Mr. Speaker, we have given them the process and we'll continue to give them the process until they decide, look, maybe that we're right. They know we are, I know deep in their hearts they know we're right on this issue. Why are they being so stubborn? why is the government being so stubborn on this issue? I can't understand it, Mr. Speaker.

The editorial went on: "There are those who resent the French language and mistrust the people who speak it. There are those who believe constitutions should not put limits on what a government or Legislature may do. The government can offer nothing that would win their support for refinement of constitutional language rights in Manitoba, but they may have constructive suggestions to offer." That's what we're asking for the people of Manitoba, a chance for them to give constructive suggestions to this government, something they don't seem to want to hear.

I see I've run out of time, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill said, "Trust the people," and, Sir, for Manitobans inside and

outside the Legislature, that is the issue on which this debate, in my view, now turns. That is what is being debated here at this point in time in this Session. The issue is whether the Government of the Day in intending to proceed with the kind of initiative that is contained in its resolution for the amendment to the Constitution is prepared to go in a true sense to the people of Manitoba and ask for their endorsement, their input, and their consideration of that very important step.

A few years from now, Mr. Speaker, when historians are writing the epitaph of the 1983 Session of the Manitoba Legislature, I suggest that it will read something like this: "The long, hot, fractious Session in the long, hot, fractious summer." When they write the epitaph of this New Democratic Government, Mr. Speaker, I suggest it will read something like this, very much like this. "They didn't trust the people."

It is that reluctance, that weakness on their part, Sir, with respect to the communication and trust that should exist between a government and its people, between any politician and his or her constituents, that will be their undoing. I remind them again of that dictum of Churchill's, "Trust the people." If you trust the people, generally in democracy under the parliamentary democratic system, although there may be peaks and valleys and pitfalls along the way, things generally in the end will work out for the betterment of society and will work out in a positive and constructive direction. If you don't trust the people, you sow seeds of cynicism and seeds of inquiry and seeds of mistrust that cannot be overcome, that cannot be set aside and that continually undermine, Sir, the best efforts of governments and of those men and women who elect them and who live under them and alongside them and with them.

This is the great pitfall that this government faces at the present time, and the position they have taken with respect to the sub-amendments and the amendments on this resolution, Sir, identify that pitfall very very clearly. The position that they have taken identifies the basic weakness from which they suffer. They are a government suffering from considerable paranoia, a government suffering from shell shock, a government so discomfited by its own mistakes and by the activities launched legitimately by members of this side of the House, the opposition, to identify those mistakes and to point out for Manitobans what is going wrong with this province and what is wrong under this administration. That it, Sir, that government opposite and its Ministers and its members can no longer approach issues with sanity and with clear thinking and with reason. They have gone into a shell, they have gone into the bunker and nowhere, Sir, have they gone into the bunker more thoroughly and more completely than on this resolution and on the amendments and sub-amendments that have been developed and put forward in relation to it. They have hunkered down and said, "We've taken all the defeats that we can take in this Session; we have taken all the criticism that we can take; we have revealed all the glaring weaknesses to Manitobans that we are prepared to reveal; we have shown all the warts on our body politic, in our government" - this is the New Democratic Government talking to themselves, Sir - "that we dare show and we are not going to reveal ourselves to be weak or to contain warts or to show indecision any more. The

opposition has been right; the opposition has pointed out that this government, the NDP Government of the Day, is weak and indecisive and leaderless and wandering, but we cannot afford, Sir" - this is the government talking to itself - "to have that destructive image disseminated any further. We've got to hunker down on something; we've got to go the bunker and go to the wall and fight to the death on something; we cannot afford, even when we're wrong, to change, to be seen to be retreating, to be seen to be compromising in any way; and so we have put forward an initiative of our own, without consulting the people of Manitoba, and we are going to ram it through and we are going to fight it through and we are going to see it through, against all reason, right to the end."

That, Sir, I believe is not an unfair description of the kind of soul searching and intra-council discussions that will be going on within the government at the present time. That, Sir, I think is not an unfair scenario of the kinds of things that members on the government side must be saying to themselves individually in their heart-of-hearts and collectively in their caucus room and in their council meeting rooms. That, Sir, I think is not an inaccurate description of the paranoid, shell-shocked government that is temporarily in administration of this province and that must assume responsibility for the resolution that's before us and for the debate that has developed around that resolution in these past few days and weeks.

Mr. Speaker, if the government were prepared to trust the people in a true and real and meaningful sense, if the government were prepared to go to the people and permit the people to participate in a meaningful way, not just in a window dressing way, not just in a rhetorical way, but in a meaningful way, in a decision having to do with the wisdom of the proposed course of action that the government has put before us, then, Sir, I for one assure you that I would abide by that decision, absolutely and unequivocally, and I know that my colleagues would and my party would. We stand for democracy in its true sense, government of, by, and for the people and when the people speak, we abide by that decision, Sir.

For those members opposite to suggest that they are the ones who want to take this question to the people and we are the ones who are frustrating that process, is the most perverse claim that has been raised in this Legislature in some considerable time. It is one of the most perverse claims that I have ever heard in Manitoba public life.

A few hours ago in this debate, Sir, the Minister of Mines and Energy said, and I quote, and I think I quote precisely, "It is the New Democratic Government that wants to go out with this resolution to the people and it is the members of the Progressive Conservative caucus who are stopping it."

Mr. Speaker, I said a moment ago that position is one of the most perverse claims that I've ever heard in Manitoba public life and certainly the most perverse to be uttered in this Session of this Legislature and I repeat that. That claim by the Minister of Mines and Energy and his colleagues opposite is so cynical as to boggle the mind, Sir. It is so cynical as to make Manitobans rear back in horror. They don't want to go out to the people in any real sense, Mr. Speaker, those members opposite in the government. They want to

control hot house, hasty, automatic, put-through of their initiative. They want to accompany it with window dressing; they want to accompany it with some gingerbread. They want to say that they are holding public meetings in Winnipeg and in Brandon and perhaps in Thompson, perhaps in one other community and they want to be able to come back and say, see, we went to the people; but, Sir, those will be carefully constructed, carefully appointed and carefully annointed meetings that will be carefully designed and controlled to enable the government to make the rhetorical claim that they went to the people when, in fact, all they were was a showcase, like a show trial in some of those societies in this world against whom all of us, I trust, stand so rigidly opposed. They want showcase, window dressing meetings. They don't want to go out to the people in any real sense and invite the people to speak up freely and as often as the people desire and for as reasonably long a time as is required to get the true story from the people and to get the true feeling and the true reaction of the people of Manitoba.

If they did that and they permitted the people to speak up that way and the people opted for their course of action, Mr. Speaker, I would not quarrel with it . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: Order please. The Member for Radisson on a point of order.

MR. G. LECUYER: I just heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Member for Fort Garry say, they don't want a true committee, they don't want to hear the people for any length of time; they don't want to hear them in different places, when clearly, in the House yesterday and on the record, the House Leader has stated that they would be given all the time that is required, at reasonable hours. It's been indicated this government committee would be sitting in various localities; therefore for the Member for Fort Garry to say this is an actual untruth.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. I thank the member for that clarification. It was not a point of order. The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not unhappy that the Member for Radisson raised that point, because I'm coming precisely to that and, in fact, what he had to say does not detract one iota from my point, that regardless of what the Government House Leader had to say yesterday or perhaps the day before yesterday or perhaps the day before that, it was clearly laid out in the record many weeks ago, and I intend to come to that and I intend to demonstrate that, that there was no intention to hold true, meaningful public hearings, no intention to go out to the people in any real or meaningful sense or to permit any reasonable length of time for the people to have input into this situation.

What the Government House Leader has said in the last day or two has been precisely the kind of window dressing that I was just referring to. Obviously, the Member for Radisson has entirely missed the point. The Minister of Mines and Energy got up and said effectively the same thing last night and if the Member for Radisson is not interested in listening to me, fine, I can accept that, that's his case, but don't interrupt

when I had clearly laid out the parameters on which I'm speaking and drag a red herring into the issue. I have acknowledged the fact that members opposite have said, yes, there are going to be some meetings. What I am saying is that, those are mere window dressing; they are not the kinds of public hearings that true, parliamentary, representational democracy requires and demands, and that we are asking for, and that we believe the majority of Manitobans are asking for. Everybody in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, everybody who has followed this debate from its inception, wherever he or she may be, wherever he or she may reside in whatever corner of Manitoba, knows one thing about this debate above all others, and that is, Sir, that those people opposite in the government were not prepared to consult the people at all until we forced them into it and shamed them into it.

I remind the Member for Radisson of that fact and that is clearly on the record in the transcript of the debates in this House on Friday, June 17, 1983 in Hansard beginning on Page 3769, and I intend to refer to that debate and refer to those remarks and reiterate them for the record, because members opposite seem to be suffering from, or deliberately practising some kind of selective amnesia, some kind of selective forgetfulness on this point, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Radisson is quite wrong when he says that his colleagues are prepared to consult the people. They were not prepared to consult the people at all in any way six weeks ago, a month-and-a-half they were not prepared to consult the people in any meaningful way and they said so in this House. Six weeks of discussion, examination and debate, have forced them and shamed them into a quarter acknowledgement or one-tenth acknowledgement of the correctness of what we are saying, and so now they are setting up apparently some window dressing meetings. That is all they are and the people of Manitoba who have been following this debate know that.

Now, Sir, they're trying to pretend that they want to take this issue to the people. That's so unethical a position and so transparent a position as to make the citizens of Manitoba throw up their hands in horror, as I said a moment ago, at such a shameless display of intellectual dishonesty. Informed Manitobans are doing this, they're doing this precisely. They are throwing up their hands in horror at that kind of intellectual dishonesty. They're shocked at a government that would play so fast and loose with ethics and with honour; at a government that would stand up and say they want to go to the people, when they've clearly demonstrated don't want to go to the people in a meaningful way; they want a contrived, organized, hothouse endorsement by themselves, among their own supporters, of their own privately developed initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy last night said, and again I quote, I think accurately, from his remarks: "We will take sufficient time to consult the people, that is what we are saying. We believe the people want to be heard, we are prepared to hear them." I presume that is what the Member for Radisson is referring to. Well, Mr. Speaker, what a sham! Nobody's going to be fooled by that. When the Minister of Mines and Energy says we believe the people want to be heard, we are prepared to hear them, we and thousands of Manitobans ask, Mr. Speaker, how? How do you

prepare to hear them? In what way and in what form are you prepared to hear them? In two or three weeks, at harvest time, is that how you're going to hear from the people of Manitoba? In two or three weeks as the long, hot summer is moving into the hot, busy, intensive harvest season, in what is essentially an agrarian, agricultural-oriented province. Is that how they're going to hear the people? Three or four selected meetings in two or three selected weeks. What a sham, Mr. Speaker! And the Member for Radisson stands up and says that the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Government House Leader has assured this House that the people of Manitoba are going to be heard on this issue.

There is certainly a way for the people of Manitoba to be heard on this issue, Mr. Speaker, and that is to convene, over a period of time extending from now through the next few months but coming inside their self-imposed December 31 deadline, effective public hearings that call on the people of Manitoba, throughout the Province of Manitoba, to come forward and take their time without duress, without intimidation, without pressure, and state their case and let their views be known and be heard and be digested. That is the way to hear from the people of Manitoba and any Canadian, let alone any Manitoban, familiar as most Canadians are with our system in this country and our way of life in this country and our respect for each other would agree. I have no doubt that any Canadian would agree with my contention and my colleagues' contention that that is the way to permit the people to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, a few hours ago in this debate, the Minister of Energy and Mines cried fake tears, Sir, over a fake allegation that in contributions to the debate from this side of the House he had heard very little, as he put it, in fact, had heard very little if any meaningful reference to the referral motion itself, to the sub-amendment itself or to the issue itself. He claimed that he had heard rather a good deal of criticism of different Ministers, a good deal of personal attack and the like, but no analysis or critique of the issue itself.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to deal for one minute with that incredible charge on the part of the Minister of Mines and Energy. A claim like that, Sir, serves only to demonstrate that he has failed utterly to understand what is at issue here. He's failed utterly to understand even one iota of this particular legislative confrontation. To use the words of his own colleague, the Attorney-General, the Government House Leader and turn them back on him: "There is none so deaf as he who will not hear."

Obviously, the Minister of Mines and Energy has been unwilling to hear, because what is at issue now, Sir, here is the question of whether or not that government trusts the people sufficiently to seek the people's opinion and input on a proposed course of action that would change the nature and, perhaps, the future of this province. It is not the referral motion itself; it is not the resolution having to do with an amendment to the Constitution of Canada; it is not the resolution having to do with a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Manitoba; it is a question of a mandate. Everybody on this side who has spoken on this debate has spoken to that question. Our amendment speaks to that question; our first sub-amendment addressed that question; the current sub-amendment addresses that

question. The question being, how you get the issue to the people in a meaningful way and permit input from the people in a true and meaningful way. If the Minister of Mines and Energy has missed that, and obviously he has, Sir, then he's missed the whole debate, he's missed the whole subject, he's missed the whole point, and he had better re-acquaint himself with what is at stake here before intervening in this debate again.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago the Attorney-General indicated that there would be little, if any, consultation with the people on this proposed course of action of this government's, and that is how this whole thing got started. That, Sir, is the issue. At the moment, that is the issue. We're prepared to deal with the issue of the proposed constitutional amendment itself, or I am; if the people of Manitoba have a chance to participate in that process. The way this whole confrontation, this whole debate, the amendment, the sub-amendment, the current sub-amendment got started is found in the initial position taken by the architect of the government's initiative, the Government House Leader, the Attorney-General, and his leader, the First Minister, who with him indicated that there would not be the opportunity for the kind of consultation or an acknowledgment of the need for the kind of consultation with the people that we are asking.

As a logical consequence of that, Sir, we are into debate on the process. Now, it absolutely staggers me to contemplate the obtuseness of the Minister of Mines and Energy on that point, and in fact, Sir, I don't think he is that obtuse. I don't think the whole thing has gone over his head. I think that he has deliberately pulled in his head, done what I said a few moments ago the entire government is doing, gone into the bunker and decided to make a fight to the death of this thing, although he knows and his colleagues know it's unreasonable ground to try to hold. But because they're so shellshocked and paranoid as a result of what's happened to them throughout this entire Session, they're going to try to hold that unreasonable ground even if it is unreasonable.

What he has done, Sir, in his remarks in this debate in the last few hours is simply put up a smokescreen and a coverup. He has simply undertaken an attempt at diversion, at throwing the people of Manitoba off the track here. So, Sir, his comments add up to pure trickery, pure trickery, because they do not deal with what all Manitobans, with any semblance of attention to this debate, recognize as the issue of the moment, and that is the process for involving the people.

Mr. Speaker, a colleague of the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Finance, said in his remarks last night that the opposition was engaged in filibuster on this debate. He said, "Let's get on with the work of Manitobans, let's get on with the work of the people, let's stop the filibuster, let's stop playing games." Mr. Speaker, again an admission of total incomprehension of what this is all about. Who's playing games, Mr. Speaker? Who's playing games? This is the work of Manitobans and we're not the only ones to say so. Commentators throughout the province, throughout the public media, throughout the community, are saying what we are saying. We, as elected representatives of the people, have a responsibility to say it in this Chamber. This is the work of Manitobans, the shape of our society, the shape of our province, the course

of our future. What more paramount, what more profound work of, for and by Manitobans exists, Mr. Speaker? What more profound Manitoba work is there? We're not playing games and we're not operating a mill. This is not an assembly line. This is the cockpit of parliamentary process and the citizens' freedoms and we are participating in this debate in that context of parliamentary responsibility, an elected responsibility, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I said a few moments ago that I wanted to deal for a minute or two with the record and how the record unequivocally belies the specious claims of members opposite that they are the ones who want to go the people and we are the ones who are stopping that process. In the few minutes remaining to me, Mr. Speaker, I intend to do that.

Sir, if there were any validity or credibility to the allegations of the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Finance, the Member for Radisson and all members on the other side, except the Honourable Member for Elmwood, if there was any validity or credibility at all to their allegations, Sir, then why did we have that dramatic debate, that dramatic vote and that dramatic adjournment of this House on Friday morning, June 17th? Not July 17th, Mr. Speaker, June the 17th, a full month-and-a-half ago, long before the sweltering temperatures and the rising emotions of the past few days in this Chamber. Why did we have, Sir, that kind of confrontation?

I want to refer to the record to remind members opposite of the nature and the extent and the importance of that confrontation and how crucially that confrontation that morning, Friday June 17, 1983, lies at the bottom, at the root, of everything we're debating at the present time. Why was there that serious exchange, Sir? Why was there that serious episode? That episode was referred to last night in this debate by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

There was that serious episode and that serious debate, Mr. Speaker, because it was the intention of the government to proceed with its proposed initiative on the constitutional amendment resolution or resolutions - three - with all the haste they could muster, with a course of action that said, full speed ahead, do not let the people learn too much about this sort of thing, do not let the opposition become too aware of what's involved or we will be stopped, we will be asked to answer questions, we will be asked to explain why. We must move on with this in all haste. That was the atmosphere that was laid down on the morning of Friday, June 17th, and produced an original eruption and that was the atmosphere and the position that has produced the subsequent amendment and sub-amendments from this side of the House and that was the atmosphere that has produced the debate up to this point in time and that, Sir, is the issue.

I think it's vitally important that some of the key exchanges of that sitting be restated for the record because the memories of members opposite need to be refreshed on this point. As I said before, I think they're from selective amnesia that borders on cynical amnesia, and I think the people of Manitoba deserve to be reminded of what took place that morning and why we're at the point to which we've come in this debate, Sir. Those crucial exchanges start on Page

3769 of Hansard and they begin with the following statement from the Honourable Attorney-General, the Government House Leader, who said: "Mr. Speaker, during the balance of this Session of the Legislature, the government will be introducing three resolutions dealing with the Constitution. One deals in the very preliminary way with aboriginal rights, another deals with language rights, and the third concerns economic rights."

Later, in that statement, the Honourable Attorney-General went on to say, Sir, "Although there has been much publicity and many political statements about each of these issues, many Manitobans would like more factual information and would wish to have questions answered.

"Accordingly, although the government must meet certain deadlines with respect to two of these resolutions, it is prepared to organize public meetings in a number of Manitoba centres in the next few weeks." Bear in mind, Sir, that this was Friday, June 17th - that's six weeks ago.

"These meetings will provide Manitobans with an opportunity to comment, to receive information and to have their questions dealt with. The resolutions will be introduced in the House and debate commenced within the next 10 days, but the resolutions will not be put to a vote prior to the conclusion of these meetings. Dates, places and particulars of the meetings will be announced early next week."

At that point, Sir, my leader, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition had the following to offer, and I quote, this is the Honourable Sterling Lyon, "Mr. Speaker, we welcome the announcement made by the Attorney-General with respect to the business of the House relating to the three constitutional amendments contained in the statement this morning. The one particular amendment, of course, Sir, about which we have spoken, is that with respect to Section 23 of The Manitoba Act, which would be a constitutional amendment giving official bilingual status to the Province of Manitoba. It is that amendment in particular that we suggested should be referred to the people of Manitoba by way of committee hearings intersessionally, in order that the opinions of the people of Manitoba could be sought."

There is then, Sir, some continuing support for that position that my leader articulated and then he went on to say, and I quote directly again from his statements of that morning, "I would make this further suggestion to the Attorney-General and to the government, as I suggested in the first instance, that the resolution should be introduced and referred immediately to a standing committee of the Legislature, which has power, of course, inherently to sit intersessionally, and that that resolution should then be dealt with after adjournment of this House, with the understanding that if time limits have to be met before the end of the year, that the House would then reconvene to deal with the resolution after it has heard from the public of Manitoba." So that even at that point, Sir, we were acknowledging the need to be helpful with respect to the time limits that the government, through the Attorney-General, had put on itself, the time limits that the Attorney-General had put on himself through his own private deal with the other parties to this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, my leader then said later in his statement, in that particular sequence, and I quote,

"Aside from those comments, Mr. Speaker, we welcome the government's suggestion this morning and we will do everything that we can to co-operate, to ensure that the hearings of the committee are held throughout Manitoba and that Manitobans have a full opportunity to express themselves on each of these matters."

A moment or two later, going into the Oral Question period, Mr. Speaker, my leader asked the following question. This is the Honourable Sterling Lyon, "Mr. Speaker, a question to the First Minister. In light of the announcement just made by the Attorney-General with respect to the amendment to Section 23 of The Manitoba Act and the other two constitutional matters that will be brought before the House apparently this Session, will the First Minister give an undertaking to the House this morning that the suggestion that has been made that the committee meet intersessionally; that is, after we have concluded the business of the House this year, will that suggestion be followed?" End of quote, Mr. Speaker, although the actual question by my leader contained supporting phraseology backing up that question, but for the purposes of my statement this morning, it is not necessary to include the whole question. That was the nub of the question. "Will the First Minister give an undertaking to the House this morning that the committee will meet intersessionally, after we have concluded the business of the House this year, will that suggestion be followed?"

Sir, the First Minister then responded to that question. This is the Honourable First Minister, Mr. Pawley, "Mr. Speaker, no." I interrupt to restate that and re-emphasize it, Mr. Speaker. Please note, all members on the government side who have said that the government has always taken the position that this kind of meaningful, intersessional, public hearing that we have requested has been the intention of those members opposite, that this kind of meaningful opportunity for the people of Manitoba to truly participate has always been the government's intention.

Mr. Speaker, the First Minister, in responding directly to that question of my leader that morning had the following to say and I reiterate and I quote again, "Mr. Speaker, no. This is a matter that will be dealt with not on intersessional basis, but as a consequence of the kinds of meetings that have been outlined by the Attorney-General to deal with information. The meetings are caused as a result of the necessity for resolution of certain matters pertaining to a court case. It's not an instance where we could fairly say that intersessional committee meetings could change the nature of the agreement that has been arrived at."

Mr. Speaker, later in that same exchange, the First Minister that morning had this to say, and I quote. "The meetings that are involved here are clearly for the purpose of better informing the public insofar as the resolution that has been arrived at as a result of a court litigated action, Mr. Speaker. It is a matter that cannot be dealt with effectively by public hearings, but by way of providing information as to the nature of the resolution of the court agreement."

Mr. Speaker, there is more. I have only quoted from the partial exchanges of that particular morning, Friday, June 17th, 1983, as recorded in Hansard on Pages 3769 and 3770, but the issue on that question, the argument and the debate on that question went on that morning. There is more on subsequent pages of

Hansard, and if you'll recall, Sir, we ended with a very fractious division in this House that morning, on a call for adjournment of the House, simply because we had been entirely repudiated and, through us, we felt the people of Manitoba had been entirely repudiated by the First Minister and his colleague, the Attorney-General, in respect to our request for a meaningful opportunity for the people of Manitoba to participate in this process.

So there, Sir, is the record, and as I suggested a moment ago, that record unequivocally belies that false position taken by members opposite who are now trying to claim that they want to go out to the people and we are stopping them. They want to go out to the people, Mr. Speaker? They had to be browbeaten into even admitting that kind of process should be permitted or even considered in any degree. They want to go out to the people, Mr. Speaker? Sure, they want to go out to the people and get back in here in three weeks with a report that is concocted and produced so quickly that most of the people of Manitoba have not even had a chance to digest the issue, to understand what it's all about.

We're not the only people in Manitoba, we're not the only spokesmen who are calling for this kind of reason and reasonable course of action, Mr. Speaker. Editorialists and commentators throughout the province are calling for that same kind of care, caution and responsibility. They are asking, what's the rush? It's not just the Progressive Conservative opposition in this Legislature; it's a great many Manitobans who are asking, what's the rush? If government members don't understand that, Sir, then they don't understand the issue at all, and I go back to the original dictum that I offered to the government members when I began my remarks, Winston Churchill's dictum, "Trust the people." So far, that government has demonstrated, Sir, that they don't trust the people at all.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on the sub-amendment proposed by the Member for Arthur.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the standing committee sit during recess after prorogation and report to the next Session of the Legislature, and in any case not later than December the 30th of 1983.

Mr. Speaker, following the hottest day of the summer, the temperatures reaching record highs - Portage la Prairie being recorded yesterday, they didn't break the all-time high, but they did record the hottest point across Canada with a reading of some 107 degrees Fahrenheit - followed last evening, Mr. Speaker, by high winds, storming to the point where it did considerable damage to our area and to my farm, my business and I really haven't heard to what extent if any damage was done to the immediate area with hail.

But, however, Mr. Speaker, here we are, the first week in August, in this building debating on an issue that is very very important to the people of Manitoba today, their children, their grandchildren and the next generations to come, an issue that is the most serious

I believe that this Legislature has had to deal with for many many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am a firm believer that if this legislation is to be made law by this NDP Government, it will deal a serious blow to the well-being of the people of this province. I say this, Mr. Speaker, because I believe it will drive another wedge into the social structure of our society. It has been said that a rift might easily appear if this legislation is passed. It might easily lead to a situation similar to what we see and is happening in Ireland. I sincerely hope, Mr. Speaker, that this does not happen and I don't believe that it would if this government were to hold back and not rush into and forward onto this particular issue at this particular time.

But, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that the thoughts out there in the communities are there, they are there. There are concerns; they are not with the government of today. The people of Manitoba are very concerned, that is the majority. There are small groups of people that probably are sympathetic with what the government is proposing to do, but it's very small.

So, Sir, with that in mind, why does the government continue to force this bilingual issue onto the people? What is the rush all about?

Mr. Speaker, we want to see the Government of the Day let the people express their thoughts or easily give them that opportunity. These last few days they have agreed to hold meetings at two or three points in the province to let the people hear a little more, learn a little more about the proposals and just how they are going to affect them, their children and the future generations of our province.

This government that we have leading the province claims that it is a government for the people. They were elected, Mr. Speaker, on that platform; I say, Sir, they are not living up to their promises. They are out to destroy the faith that the electorates had in our system of government, Mr. Speaker.

When I spoke previously on this resolution to amend Section 23 of The Manitoba Act, I pointed out the many concerns that the people in my area have regarding the proposal and also the deep concerns, Sir, that the Union of Municipalities have.

Mr. Speaker, there is no rush for this bilingual issue to be settled now. The province continues and the government can continue its steady and reasonable progress towards implementing Section 23, started by the previous government, a government that I am proud to be part of, and carried on ably by this present Government of the Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that we oppose the French Language Services when it is needed or requested, but we feel that the application of such a service should be entirely up to the Provincial Government to administrate and should not be entrenched in the Constitution and left to the decision of the courts of law in Canada to enforce.

We agree, Mr. Speaker, that the minority of groups in our province should be protected from injustices by the majority, 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.

The program, as suggested, leaves itself wide open to challenge by any person or group as to the limited service given or significant demand made for such services. We would be forever faced with court rulings

by any individual or groups of people. The program, as proposed, affects all of the citizens of Manitoba directly and indirectly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it was the Minister of Natural Resources in one of his outbursts, stated he wanted the people of Manitoba to have the opportunity to express their feelings. If that is so, why are they rushing into this issue? Why are they thrusting it through and are insisting that it be dealt with during this Session when we're right in, as pointed out by the previous speaker, the Member for Fort Garry, the middle of harvest where the economy of this particular province is desperately relying so much on the agricultural economy. Why is it that they even want to insist that this be dealt with right now within the next two or three weeks? We hope, Mr. Speaker, that this government will realize that they are demanding something of this legislation that we, in opposition, just will not tolerate. We will continue, Mr. Speaker, to debate this issue because we believe we are right. We believe, Mr. Speaker, we are speaking for the majority of the people in Manitoba.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this government take a long look at this and realize what they are attempting to do and do not cut off the opportunity of the people of Manitoba to express their concerns on this very important issue. For goodness sakes, don't cut off the briefs when the time comes, don't cut off the opportunity for the people to present their briefs to the committee as they have done in the past. I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, if they see themselves backed up against the wall that they will probably act, once again, as they did on the Bill No. 60, by not allowing the people to continue to present their briefs to the committees.

The government the other evening closed off debate on Bill 60 at a time, Sir, when I believe there was near something like probably another 100 briefs left to be heard. They denied, Mr. Speaker, the people the only right that they had to protest that bill. That, Sir, is in my opinion a downright shame that they have taken that attitude towards the people of the Province of Manitoba.

The Premier is receiving, Mr. Speaker, thousands of letters protesting his government's action on the issue of bilingualism in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, is he listening to what they are saying? I say, no, he probably has his own ideas that he is determined is going to be made law.

There's an article here, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very appropriate. It's in the Winnipeg Sun, Sunday, June 19, 1983: "Bilingualism trips up the NDP," and I quote, Mr. Speaker, part of this editorial from the Sun: "Not content to steer its way through the minefield of the abortion issue, the Pawley Government has mired itself into the quicksand of bilingualism in its earnest attempt to do the business of the province in Canada, two official languages. Critics see the move as unnecessary, unfair to those ethnic minorities who are significantly larger than the provinces French-speaking population . . . of the light of the Quebec's determination to become thoroughly unilingual. The Quebec Government has taken the plunge in bilingualism in an effort to preserve the Quebecois culture. Party Quebecois are arguing that Trudeau bilingualism is an ill-advised farce and its urgent priority is to legislate safeguards for the language and the traditions of Quebec, an island in the Anglophone sea, that is North America."

"Unfriendly as it may seem to the rest of Canadians, we must admit that it is ridiculous to assert that a French-speaking Canadian can live or work in his native language outside Quebec. This fact serves to isolate Quebec and make its people separation-minded. The hard-nosed Anglophone may shrug but that is not the long-sighted view. Canada has failed to make the 20th Century its own for a multitude of reasons, but the most insidious has been the inability of the two solitudes to get along and to work together. The great vision of the Trudeau Government has been to see this and its great failure has been to forge a solution.

"Now along comes the Pawley Government to show the way. The government and its bilingual stand are making headlines across the country, even in Quebec, but it looks as if it will have to drag Manitobans, kicking and screaming, to the bilingual trough. The NDP MLA, Russ Doern, has broken ranks, at least 50 rural municipalities are opposed," and I believe that figure is far greater to this day, Mr. Speaker.

A MEMBER: One hundred and ten.

MR. L. HYDE: One hundred and ten has been suggested to me, Mr. Speaker.

"The Rural Municipalities are opposed to the government's request to provide bilingual municipal offices in areas with large French-speaking population and the Tories are prepared to go to the wall on this particular issue. The government is loath to conduct public hearings or sponsor a referendum for fear of polarizing that part of the population not already widely indignant about the abortion issue. It may not be long before it's required to provide permanent facilities for the protestors who are becoming a fixture on the steps of this Legislature.

"In the face of the gathering storm, it will be very difficult for the government to stay the course without turning off masses of . . . unilingual voters. This government, which sees itself as a kind of social and cultural guidance counsellor, may have to come to terms with the fact that Manitoba, like the rest of Canadians, are still not ready to make the 20th Century their forum."

Mr. Speaker, the NDP Government under the leadership of Howard Pawley and under the guidance of the iron hand of the Attorney-General, who admitted in this House, Sir, that he believes in the philosophy of the Communist Party and he stated in this House that he once carried a Communist card, is determined to press this resolution through this Assembly during this Session despite the fact that the vast majority of the people don't want it. He is denying the people out there their right. This government should call an election and see what support there really is out there for their stand on this particular bilingual issue. Mr. Speaker, there is no rush for this agreement. The province can continue and the government can continue its steady and reasonable progress towards implementing Section 23, started by the previous government and carried on ably by the present government.

Mr. Speaker, I have an article here, "Inside and Outside," and I tell you there are questions and answers on here that are unbelievable. What is referred to is a policy guideline on the French language services as

approved by this Cabinet of ours today, the NDP Cabinet. "Services provided by the Government of Manitoba shall be made available to the extent possible in both official languages to areas where the French-speaking population is concentrated. All written correspondence received from members of the public in French or English shall be answered in the same language."

Mr. Speaker, this is where the tremendous cost is going to come into place. Well, they don't realize as yet the cost of this program, just how far, or what it is going to cost. They just haven't grasped the total cost that the province is faced with.

It goes on, "Where feasible, forms, identity documents and certificates for use by the general public shall be in a bilingual format. Government information documents designed for the general public shall be either bilingual or a separate language format depending on cost, efficiency and required distribution. Where practical, signs and public notices in the regions of the province mentioned above should be in both official languages. Priority in the introduction of French language services shall be given to departments which have a greater impact on the general population, in particular, young people and senior citizens."

Mr. Speaker, this article goes on to mention the different departments that will be served. There is Agriculture; the Attorney-General's Department; Civil Service Commission; Community Services Incorporation; Corrections; Community Corporate Affairs; Corporate Development; Cultural Affairs; Economic Development and Tourism; Education; Energy and Mines; Crown Investments; Environmental Management; Workplace Safety and Health; Executive Council; Finance; Fitness, Recreation and Sport; Government Services; Health; Highways and Transportation; Housing; Labour and Employment; Manitoba Housing; Municipal Affairs; Natural Resources, Mr. Speaker, and finally, Urban Affairs.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is just a list of some of the problems, should this legislation be made law, that we the people of Manitoba, will be faced with. The cost that we will be faced with is unreal.

Mr. Speaker, on June 4th from the Free Press, an article here reads: "Clark says province too hasty on French. Joe Clark says the Manitoba Government may provoke a backlash against French in the province by moving too quickly to reinstate official bilingualism. It could cause a backlash in the population and create deeper problems than existing ones, Clark said."

He went on to say, "Faced with possible Supreme Court of Canada decisions that all Manitobans English-only laws are invalid, Premier Howard Pawley's New Democratic Government has worked out a constitutional amendment with Ottawa that would make French and English official languages of the province. Manitoba was bilingual when it entered Confederation . . ."

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. When this resolution is next before the House, the honourable member will have 16 minutes remaining.

The time of adjournment having arrived, this House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.