

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

word. It follows the government's decision to grant an educational television station to western Canada. Here it is:

The hon. Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State, has announced that an agreement has just been signed under the aegis of the Department of the Secretary of State between the C.B.C. and the Department of Education of Alberta. Under that agreement, the C.B.C. will ask the Canadian Radio-Television Commission the authorization to establish a French TV station in the Edmonton area which will also be used to broadcast educational programs provided by the Metropolitan Edmonton Educational Television (MEETA).

The Secretary of State has pointed out that he has recently received a petition with 28,000 signatures asking the establishment of a French TV station in the Edmonton area.

On October 24, 1968, realizing the urgency of the situation, the Secretary of State announced the creation of a task force on educational broadcasting which, among other things, would look for interim measures to be taken before the adoption of the bill.

The agreement which has just been signed, must be considered as a happy one, provided that in reply to the proposal accepted by the government, we do not hear too many statements such as the one I read today in a newspaper article entitled: *The Voice of Western Canadians Does Not Want French Radio or Television in Edmonton*.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker—and unfortunately, I will not have enough time for all I would like to say—such statements should not be made or published in newspapers.

I shall quote a few sentences therefrom, because I do not want anyone to think that I made those statements. However, I wish the whole of Canada to know that, if there are separatists in Quebec, you can also find people who do not accept French Canadians as they should do. I shall therefore quote the opening of the statement:

—A group called "The Voice of Western Canadians" sent a letter to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission stating that the establishment of a French TV station in Edmonton was neither justified nor desired.

Last month, the C.B.C. filed with the C.R.T.C. a petition for a French TV station in the Albertan capital. No decision has yet been announced by the C.R.T.S.

In April, 28,000 Albertans forwarded a petition to the Secretary of State... asking him to support the establishment of that station. It is following that petition that the C.B.C. presented its request.

As for the *Association canadienne-française d'Alberta*, it rates at 40,000 the number of French-speaking Canadians in the Edmonton area alone—

"The Voice of Western Canadians", on behalf of its 400 members, protests against the establishment of that station, and as the

watch-dog of the rights of Canadians, I wanted to ask this question. Whenever our people will be discriminated against—with the hope that the injustice will be quickly corrected—I will always be among the defenders who wish Canada to remain the Canada we know today.

[English]

Hon. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from the Ralliement Créditiste has said that many in western Canada have their heritage rooted in Quebec. Not only do they wish to be involved in the affairs of western Canada but they also wish to retain their relations with other French speaking people in this country. He talked about the establishment of a French language television station in the capital of Alberta, Edmonton, and suggested this is of paramount importance for French speaking people living in that part of Canada. With that I agree. In my own part of Canada, the Northwest Territories, the missions which have ministered to many of our people have come from French Canada and other French speaking parts of the world. The people of western Canada, and particularly of northern Alberta, know how to get along with each other. Thousands of our Ukrainians, Eskimos and Indians have learned how to get along with each other, and that is demonstrated in communities like Lac-La-Biche and St. Paul, where the basic language is French. The French speaking people of these communities know how to get along with their neighbours.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt but the parliamentary secretary's time has expired.

WATER RESOURCES—HAMILTON, ONTARIO—
POLLUTION BY STEEL COMPANY
THROUGH DUMPING OF ACID

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I directed a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) and asked whether his department had investigated a report to the effect that in February the Steel Company of Canada dumped 150,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid into Hamilton Bay. I asked, if that were so, had a report been made and would it be tabled. I repeat that question this evening.

Other members of this house have talked about the severe pollution problem which presently exists in Hamilton Bay. That area apparently is one of the worst polluted areas