

to the Plaut report and I could say on behalf of the Government that it is a very thoughtful and profound study of this very troublesome area. I have also indicated that we will be giving it priority attention. We tabled it just the other day. It is very complex.

What we had proposed in the interim was to bring into the House legislation to increase the Immigration Appeal Board so that it could meet the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to provide oral hearings to every one of the some thousands of persons in the backlog before the Immigration Appeal Board. Unfortunately, and I say this with profound regret, the Liberal Opposition would not allow that Bill to go through so that many people in the system will not be able to be assisted this summer through the months of July and August, and through the fall, until we can deal with the Plaut report. If people want to find out about delays, ask the Liberal Party.

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[Translation]

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

##### TRANSLATION OF MANITOBA LEGISLATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In 1983, the Prime Minister and his party supported a resolution of this House on the Manitoba issue to the effect that, in exchange for certain services, we would agree to translate a limited number of statutes.

Yesterday in this House, the Minister of Justice reversed his stand on this issue by saying that these services were no longer committed under a federal agreement; according to him, 1985 is not the same as 1983.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister, who is well aware of the federal expertise and the services provided in both official languages, whether he is still willing to offer such services to Manitoba in exchange for a reduced number of statutes to translate.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, what we want is to provide integral protection for the rights of the French-speaking minority in Manitoba. French-speaking Manitobans must be treated as full citizens, and this has always been the stand of the federal Government.

The Manitoba Premier has shown himself willing to open a dialogue, and I can assure you that, both as concerns the English-speaking minority in Quebec and the French-speaking minority in Manitoba and elsewhere, the federal Government is there as a friend, as a supporter, and all our resources and potential will be used to promote the cause of our French-speaking or English-speaking minorities wherever they may be.

#### Petitions

● (1200)

##### INQUIRY WHY COURT CHALLENGE PROGRAM NOT CONTINUED

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, in that case, I wonder whether the Prime Minister could tell us why the Court Challenge Program has not been maintained, why minorities must show more patience and when the federal Government will re-establish this very essential program so that we may obtain from the federal Government the expertise, technical assistance and funds required to bring before the courts the cases which we believe must be defended?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think that my friend may have misunderstood. There has been no change in the position of the federal Government. On the contrary! In view of the fact that we now have a ruling by the Supreme Court, we are willing to examine with the Manitoba authorities any action that might bring about quickly a fair and equitable settlement for Franco-Manitobans. We are willing to sit down at any time to bring justice to the French-speaking minority in Manitoba. I believe that it is a national duty for the federal Government to be open and generous with all its minorities, and this is—

[English]

**Mr. Berger:** A lot of hot air.

[Translation]

**Mr. Mulroney:** A Liberal Member objects to that. Such is the hypocritical position of the Liberal Party. You are opposed to French-speaking minorities. Such is the hypocrisy of the Liberal Party!

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have a feeling that the next few weeks will do everyone some good.

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#### CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of three, presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, June 27, 1985 meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) and certain petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.