

Adjournment Debate

can apply to the courts if they believe they have a cause under the Charter. He said those people—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his seven minutes have expired.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Claude Lanthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we entirely agree with the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) about the historic character of the unanimous judgment on the use of French language delivered by the Supreme Court of Canada on June 13 last.

However, we would like to make a few relevant comments on that epoch-making decision which has clarified and removed any ambiguity from the constitutional requirements in connection with the Manitoba laws and parliamentary procedures.

[*English*]

The Supreme Court has upheld the Constitution of Canada while preserving the rule of law and avoiding legal chaos in the Province of Manitoba. We can only be impressed by the rigour and wisdom of the court's reasoning in coming to that decision, particularly with regard to the primacy of the Constitution and the rule of law, as well as the role of the judiciary in upholding these two fundamental principles of our system of Government.

[*Translation*]

However, that is not all Mr. Speaker. Each and every Canadian has something to learn from that major decision

which confirms the sacrosanct character of minority language rights in Canada, that point of honour which has always been upheld by our valiant Canadian Prime Minister. However, it is imperative to quote a brief excerpt of that judgment delivered by the Supreme Court in this matter and I quote:

[*English*]

The importance of language rights is grounded in the essential role that language plays in human existence, development and dignity. It is through language that we are able to form concepts; to structure and order the world around us. Language bridges the gap between isolation and community, allowing humans to delineate the rights and duties they hold in respect of one another, and thus to live in society.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, our Government is seriously committed to protecting minority rights wherever they exist, as stated in the throne speech and the unequivocal commitment of our Government to improve and monitor such an important aspect of a truly national life.

[*English*]

With regard to the legal procedures leading to the resolution—

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I must advise the Parliamentary Secretary that his three minutes have expired.

Mr. Prud'homme: On behalf of those who are sleepy-eyed, I would like to thank you very much for your patience.

Mr. Speaker: Before I adjourn, I would like to thank the staff for a job extremely well done.

It being 12.53 o'clock a.m., this House stands adjourned until eleven o'clock a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 12.53 a.m.