

Official Languages

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. member says that I am supposed to be speaking to the amendment. I can assure him that I will be no more out of order than he and his colleague from Calgary North have been repeatedly out of order during the last couple of days. On that occasion I said, as reported at page 9071 of *Hansard*:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this bill, I realize that contained in it is one of the most important principles which the people of this country must face up to and resolve if our country is to survive. The deputy leader of our party, speaking on second reading of the bill some days ago, put the position of our party very clearly as one of support for the bill. I shall support this bill.

My hon. friend and colleague, the former member for Selkirk, who will be premier of Manitoba in a few days, in speaking on the principle of the bill on October 17 of last year, as reported at page 1498 of *Hansard* had this to say:

I find the resolution easy to support in spirit, intent and in purpose. I find it laudable. The only thing I would add is that what we are being asked to do by this resolution we should have done years ago.

It seems to me that in this debate some hon. members have attempted to re-enact the fight that took place during the election campaign in June, 1968. By opposing this bill some hon. members think they are mobilizing the support of those who harbour anti-French and anti-Quebec sentiments. I suggest to those hon. members, particularly to those hon. members from Manitoba who voted against the bill at second reading, that it is best to forget about the election of June 25, 1968.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Aiken: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, neither the hon. member now speaking nor the hon. member who preceded him have mentioned the amendment, other than in passing. I suggest that this is not a general debate on the official languages bill. We are considering a specific motion to amend. Unless hon. member's remarks are confined to the relevant points at issue, we shall be here until Christmas.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I agree with the hon. member. Hon. members ought to confine their remarks to the amendment being discussed. I know that great latitude has been given to hon. members this afternoon in the debate on the amendment, but I hope that from now on hon. members will

[Mr. Horner.]

kindly confine their remarks to the amendment before us.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Horner: Read the amendment. It might help you to think.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, the last person in this house I am likely to take advice from is the hon. member for Crowfoot. I suggest that he has strayed from the matter being discussed more often than anyone else. I do not question your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I intend to confine my remarks to the amendment. However, since Your Honour has, so to speak, pulled me up after other hon. members have enjoyed some latitude, I cannot help being a little resentful. I will take the opportunity on another occasion to say what I want to say about this bill and about the feelings of the people of Manitoba in regard to it. May I say that I shall join my colleagues in supporting this amendment, it being one of the few moved by members of the official opposition that does not negate the spirit of the bill. In clear form it spells out the basic intent of the bill. No doubt the hon. member for Crowfoot will range far and wide in speaking in support of the amendment. If I do as he does, I hope I may be in order. I conclude by saying that I shall support this amendment.

Mr. Givens: Mr. Speaker, I request permission to revert to routine business for a moment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is that agreed?

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I have been acting as house leader for my party and I have been given no notice of any amendment.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, this has nothing to do with an amendment. The hon. member wishes to present the report of the special committee with respect to certain private bills which we hope can be dealt with tomorrow. I hope the house will permit us to revert to routine proceedings.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the hon. member be permitted to move any motion the committee instructed him to move?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wishes to present certain reports.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.