

*Senior Citizens Advisory Assembly Act*

results of research on aging and to establish a central information office on aging. In a relatively short time, the National Advisory Council on Aging, with a staff of only five employees, has already published four major publications, set up an information centre which offers a great variety of books on aging to all Canadians, taken part in several international conferences and had extensive consultations with senior citizens' associations throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, here is the list of the Council's publications. Its first report entitled "Action Priorities" draws the attention of the various Government Departments and agencies, senior citizens' associations and the general public to the most urgent problems which now beset Canadian senior citizens. The second report entitled "Aspects of Aging in the Canadian Population—A Collection of Graphs" is a book on demography published in co-operation with Statistics Canada. The third report on Canadian non-governmental organizations on aging was prepared for the World Assembly on Aging and presents the views of Canadian senior citizens and non-governmental agencies working for the welfare of older Canadians. The most recent report, the fourth one, deals with gerontology. It is a collection of original writings of national interest reprinted and adapted for the study of the aging phenomenon.

The report written for the World Assembly on Aging is particularly important. It resulted from intensive consultations throughout Canada ending with a three-day meeting here in Ottawa in February, 1982. Over 100 people from the ten provinces and the Territories attended this meeting. These participants included senior citizens, professionals and academics working in the field of aging. The views expressed in this report were considered an important aspect of Canada's participation in the World Assembly on Aging held in Vienna. In addition, they provided a good basis for discussion at the Second National Conference on Aging held in Ottawa in the fall of 1983.

As far as the future is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the Council has recently announced its intention to develop an action plan which would include involvement strategies in the fields of health, income, housing, education and communication, as well as the monitoring of its initiatives following the Second Canadian Conference on Aging.

In short, the National Advisory Council has in my opinion already clearly shown its ability to hold consultations and develop policies to meet the concerns of older Canadians. In addition, based on its achievements to date and its ambitious projects for the future, I am convinced that its role as an agency to promote better communications and make recommendations for the development of policies will continue to expand in years to come. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what our Government has done to set up organizations responsible for improving its communications with senior citizens. In conclusion, the New Horizons Program and the National Advisory

Council already play a significant role and would make the creation of a senior citizens advisory assembly as proposed in Bill C-224 redundant.

• (1825)

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

### BILINGUALISM—MINORITY RIGHTS IN MANITOBA—INQUIRY RESPECTING INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, on March 6 of this year, I asked the Right Hon. Prime Minister a question concerning the rights of the Franco-Manitoban minority. The House will recall that as a result of the political defeat of the provincial Bill to amend the Constitution of Manitoba, we have a constitutional deadlock today.

The turn of events in Manitoba was caused by, among other things, the refusal of the Progressive Conservative Party of that province to enshrine in the Constitution of Manitoba the right to have access, in both English and French, to the Legislature, the Courts, to parliamentary and judicial institutions, if you prefer and to certain government services.

The Progressive Conservative Opposition in Manitoba, using an approach that could be qualified as parliamentary terrorism, refused to come to the Legislature to vote on the Government's Bill. The result was that the Government was forced to prorogue the Legislature, and the language rights legislation died on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker, to many Canadians, both observers and interested parties, there was no doubt that the political solution proposed by the Manitoba NDP Government in May 1983 could have gained acceptance in a spirit of compromise and understanding. A number of reasons relating to political and electoral expediency are responsible for this political defeat. For a whole year, the Government and the Franco-Manitoban population worked very hard to reach a political settlement. A number of those involved in this issue have tried to destroy instead of build, to retreat instead of advance, so that today, we have suffered a political defeat on this language question, and we now have a linguistic deadlock.

• (1830)

[*English*]

The hornet's nest stirred up by the Manitoba language dispute exemplifies the degree to which a minority group is obliged to fight for its rights. An outside observer, with little understanding of Canada, or the law of this country, may be