

deficit down and to put a better balance between the interest rate policy and the budgetary policy.

What is happening as a result of the delay of Bill C-28 in the Senate is that corporations are not paying on time their large corporations tax. The result is that about \$200 million worth of revenues that we could have put into the last fiscal year have gone uncollected. That is the problem when the Senate takes the actions that it has to delay these bills.

This action by the Senate, I believe, is a sharp departure from Canadian constitutional practice. I do not think that there have been times in the past when there have been money and tax bills such as this delayed for as long a period of time as they have. It is important for us to realize the significance of this and the importance of having the Senate blocking a measure that has been put in place by a properly elected government.

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[Translation]

#### LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. I want to get back to the federal-provincial agreement signed by Saskatchewan and Canada on establishing a system under which the French minority in this province would control and manage its own schools, which would be a first for this province.

I would like to know, considering the fact that the province has backtracked, put the plans on the backburner, in fact, has put the whole project on hold, whether the secretary of State will give the House his guarantee that all monies, namely the \$26 million to be provided over a ten-year period, will be withheld and not given to the province until it has developed a program with a firm commitment and written guarantees for the Government of Canada that it will proceed as soon as possible.

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** You are no doubt aware of our very firm commitment, having read or having heard what was said by the Prime Minister who indicated he was disappointed that the

#### Oral Questions

government of Saskatchewan had not found a way to introduce legislation during the current session.

I also had a discussion with the minister, Mr. Meiklejohn, who told me about the reasons for the delay. I am sure you also read what was said by the Commission nationale des parents francophones. Mr. Poirier says he is very pleased with Mr. Mulroney's gesture. I quote: "By offering Saskatchewan his government's co-operation, the Prime Minister of Canada has shown the kind of leadership all Francophones outside Quebec will appreciate".

We will follow further developments very carefully.

[English]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I will put the question in English. I am asking the minister if he will not, today, give us the assurance that he will not spend any of that money until Saskatchewan has given a firm commitment, in writing, to Canada, that they will proceed. That is a simple question. I do not want to know about all the other correspondence they have exchanged. I want to have the assurance that that money is there for that purpose, nothing else.

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** Mr. Speaker, there is a 10-year agreement between Canada and Saskatchewan. It calls for the disbursement of funds as those expenses are made.

**Mr. Gauthier:** We know that. Yes or no?

**Mr. Weiner:** Obviously, certain processes are ongoing. We have the assurance and the firm commitment of the Government of Saskatchewan that they are going to be proceeding within the briefest delay possible. Obviously, work will continue, and we will continue to meet our part of the commitment.

There is an agreement in place. We expect to make sure that that agreement is carried forward.

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#### AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture. Almost a month ago, the minister announced a special funding for farmers facing financial