

adopting the Swiss solution, where money, goods and people move freely across the country but language rights do not. They are attached to places and not to people.

Since the minister responsible for constitutional affairs says that the government has decided to give this House the opportunity to demonstrate its capacity to serve the interests of the country in the most open and innovative way, is it not time we tackled this head on?

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[Translation]

### DISABLED PERSONS

**Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, during National Access Awareness Week, all Canadians are urged to work together to make our country equally accessible for all its citizens and to think about ways to integrate persons with visible and invisible disabilities.

National Access Awareness Week focuses on improving access to transportation, housing, employment, education and recreation. As was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, this government will propose a five-year strategy for ensuring equal access to employment, training, housing and transportation, and for promoting community integration and public sensitivity. Canadians from all walks of life must work together to remove the barriers faced by disabled persons.

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### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### IMMIGRATION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

On May 15 the secretary of state said with regard to the Al-Mashat affair: "A report was made. It is as complete as it can be and it tells people what they need to know. The report speaks for itself".

Today a second report was made public.

**Some hon. members:** Order.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Speaker:** There seem to be some interjections during the preamble of the hon. member's question. I would hope, unless they are very properly addressed, they would remain for some other time, until we make very clear whether there is any need for any interjections. The hon. member.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your comments.

On May 15 a report was made public by the secretary of state which, as I quoted, indicated that all the facts, all the details, were full, complete and accurate.

Another report was made public today which totally contradicts report number one. Forty of the forty-seven paragraphs in the second report contradict or give new information.

Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs adopting the words that were used in another context by a U.S. President, that this first report is now inoperative? Is she still prepared to stand fully behind report number one as she said she would, even though report number two contradicts it?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this morning I and two other ministers set aside two and a half hours to go through the very documents that the hon. member is alluding to.

I have since indicated that I am prepared to go through this again this afternoon, even though I am supposed to be in this Chamber this afternoon making a speech.

I am not going to be here making a speech. I am going to be before the committee, and I would hope the hon. member would come then and deliver his question at that time.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I do not consider this a game. I consider it very serious business of the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, my second question is directed to the same minister. On May 14, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in her report on the Al-Mashat affair, thereby contradicting every principle of ministerial responsibility, that Mr. Chrétien, Associate Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, was the only public servant to blame for the way this case was