

workers are being protected. The principles of the act, as I referred to earlier, are in place and are fully respected.

The decision to allow for a certain part of the crew to be foreign workers stems from the fact that the transportation of the crude from Sable Island to where it has to go is an international trip and as such qualifies as an exception under the act.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### LANGUAGE MINORITIES

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Three years ago, the Mahé case gave minorities the right to manage their own educational institutions. The Supreme Court of Canada confirmed this right in a decision handed down last week, a decision that concerned language minorities and, more specifically, the Franco-Manitoban minority.

In view of the disturbing comments made by Premier Filmon, to the effect that francophones in Manitoba must accept his proposal and ignore the law, can the Secretary of State inform the House whether she has started serious negotiations with the provinces, and more specifically with Manitoba, to make an offer of federal assistance to that province, once and for all, to help the Government of Manitoba give its minority the right to manage its own educational institutions?

• (1500)

**Hon. Monique Landry (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member I welcomed the decision handed down last week, which came almost exactly three years after the Mahé decision, reinforcing and refining the principles contained in that decision.

I can inform the hon. member that I am now discussing with my colleagues a series of measures to help the provinces implement a school management program. As soon as the general plan has been finalized, I intend to meet the provinces with a view to helping them implement a program that is so important to the survival of minority communities.

[English]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, may I just express some frustration with that

### Oral Questions

answer because Conservatives are known for foot dragging. On the dossier of financing of francophone rights to education it is not only foot dragging federally but also provincially.

I want to quote Saskatchewan Premier Romanow in *The Globe and Mail* of February 7: "The issue for us here is another example of stalled and frustrating federal-provincial matters".

When will cabinet decide and when will Canadians know what position this government has taken in regard to rights of minority language groups to manage their own schools?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Landry (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think my Liberal colleague can find anything to criticize here. Since we came to power, we have very substantially demonstrated our commitment to supporting minority communities, as he well knows.

We passed the Official Languages Act, and we recognize the importance of supporting the provinces in the area of minority education and school management. I repeat that discussions are at a very advanced stage, and I hope that in the coming weeks we will be able to start discussions with the provinces.

I may remind the hon. member that the provinces have to do their share as well. Perhaps he could urge the provinces to put in place the appropriate legislation, so that when we have the money, the provinces are ready to proceed.

\* \* \*

[English]

### WEST COAST SALMON FISHERY

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of fisheries. It flows out of the *Fifth Estate* program on high seas drift-net fishing.

I want to know what this government is going to do with its surveillance and enforcement to prevent the theft of B.C. salmon on the high seas.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. member will be supporting the EH-101 helicopter initiative