

*Government Orders*

The member alluded in his comments to a statement made earlier today by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development concerning the justice system in the country.

I am from Nova Scotia and anybody who has lived in Nova Scotia or can read newspapers has read with great horror the findings of the Marshall commission of inquiry about the administration of justice in Nova Scotia. Madam Speaker, I do not know if you or other members of the House have read that document, but if they have not, they should. It is a stinging indictment of the justice system in Nova Scotia and a stinging indictment against systemic racism in the justice system right across the country.

I know that the issue of Oka is sometimes hard to separate when dealing with native issues, fundamental rights, weapons, the army, and all the other things, but there is one thing that is clear. It is clear that successive governments have asked the native community to live by our laws and told them that our way is a better way than their way. In doing that we have destroyed their language, we have assisted in destroying their culture, and we have almost destroyed the entire first nations of the country.

• (1620)

There is a double standard when we talk about justice and why the natives have to put down their arms because the law of the country must be supreme. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs is nodding. He knows that in Nova Scotia the Micmac community took the Government of Nova Scotia to court on the Treaty of 1752. The court affirmed the native rights when it went to the Supreme Court. Yet the Province of Nova Scotia, a province of the country and a sovereign government, has still denied the native community the rights the Supreme Court said they had subsequent to the Treaty of 1752. So, what we have is a double standard.

It is very, very easy to talk about upholding the law, but at the same time successive governments of Canada—Liberal and Conservative—and New Democratic governments in provincial jurisdictions have absolutely refused to honour the treaties they have with native peoples. The rights of everybody in this country—native and non-native—have been treated with a double standard.

I want to ask the member specifically about the UN Charter of the Rights of the Child. The Prime Minister is off this weekend to participate in the international conference and I hope he is listening. One of the articles deals with the right of children everywhere to be educated in their own language and their own culture. Yet, when the sub-committee travelled, it found that one of the number one concerns of the native community was that no resources were provided by the government to ensure the development of native curriculum and that languages of the native communities across the country were maintained.

I would like him to make a comment on that.

**Mr. Anawak:** Madam Speaker, it is very true that we are suffering from either a lack of funds or the way the funds are allocated within the education system in terms of our aboriginal languages curriculum.

Today in the Northwest Territories we have eight official languages, of which six are aboriginal languages. They also include French and English. I would hope that both the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories would recognize the need to implement programs instituting or introducing aboriginal languages as a full part of that curriculum as we have down here with French and English. I must admit that in certain parts of the territory it has to be that way. In the eastern Arctic they should implement a full Inuktitut program. In some parts of the western Arctic they should implement some other languages.

I would hope that the Government of Canada and, through them, the Government of the Northwest Territories will recognize the need to put as much money as possible into language programs or reallocate the funds to them.

Very briefly, I would also hope that the Government of Canada would reconsider the post-secondary funding to the aboriginal people.

[*Translation*]

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The time allocated for questions and comments has now expired. Resuming debate. The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, since July, television has been bringing into Canadian homes alien images of barricades and masks and assault rifles. A dispute that began in Oka over land was hijacked by a group of heavily armed people, motivated by ideology and seeking to protect illegal commerce. Their tactics have been the tactics of terrorists. High-powered weapons, threats against the autho-