

situation is so serious, I intend, over the next few days or weeks, to set out by way of statements under this Standing Order some of my concerns over the operation of VIA Rail.

Despite advertisements to the contrary, there is no longer any fun in travelling by train in Canada. Of some 36 trains I checked on Boxing Day, not one was on time. Granted, 10 of them averaged only 30 minutes late, but the balance of them ranged from one and a half hours late to four and a half hours late, and one did not leave at all. It was replaced by buses.

Four trains were fully loaded long before they reached their destinations, and the treatment accorded passengers was less than satisfactory. Hundreds were turned away.

Another holiday period, January 2 this year, was almost as bad. Although one train was actually on time, the balance ranged as late as three hours.

I realize this was a holiday period, but in the past there was always an effort to serve. That effort no longer exists. VIA Rail and its management are not serving Canadians as they should.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

RECOGNITION OF FRENCH IN MANITOBA

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I read in Friday's *Quorum* an article that appeared in *The Gazette* on February 10, 1984. The title was in English, and I quote:

[English]

Two MPs start legal fund to fight French rights Bill.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am going to quote from the Canadian Press text I have here in French, which reads as follows:

A Progressive Conservative Member for Manitoba declared Thursday that the Manitoba Bill on French rights which received the support of federal Progressive Conservatives was a socialist attempt to irreversibly destroy the provincial fabric of peace and harmony.

The Member in question was, of course, the Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie).

Mr. Speaker, I wish to protest against the attitude taken by two Progressive Conservative Members after the House adopted a resolution on this matter. The other Member mentioned in the article in *The Gazette* is the Member for Simcoe-South (Mr. Stewart) who is here in the House this afternoon, and speaking of French rights, I remember that during the debate on the Constitution, the Member for Simcoe-South said that the only official language we should have in this country was English. When I see these two Members completely ignoring Canadian realities and the status of Francophones in this country, I find this so shameful, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot do

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otherwise but rise and ask the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party to expel these two Members, and so when the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party tells us that his Party has paid its debt to Francophones in Manitoba since the Riel affair, I find this situation absolutely shameful, Mr. Speaker, and I find it outrageous that the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party says in Quebec that he wants to defend the rights of Francophones, when two of his own Party Members are not even capable of following his lead on French rights in Manitoba and this is going to lead to a blood feud between Manitobans, especially against Francophones.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is shameful, and I would ask the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party to take disciplinary measures against those two Members.

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[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILES PRIOR TO SUPREME COURT DECISION

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am appalled at the contempt the Government has shown for Parliament and for the courts in its haste to begin Cruise missile testing in Canada.

The Supreme Court of Canada today is hearing the challenge to the Cruise missile testing decision under Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But even before the Court had an opportunity to hear the case, the Minister of National Defence told the press that the Cruise missile tests would begin in the next few weeks even if the Supreme Court had not finished dealing with the legal challenge.

That is not the first time the Government has shown its arrogance and contempt on this issue. In December, 1981, the Cabinet agreed in principle to allow Cruise missiles to be tested here. But even after these plans became public knowledge, the Government refused to launch a debate on the issue. On a number of occasions it refused the requests from Members of this House for a free vote. Then, Mr. Speaker, even though the Government had not exempted the Cruise testing from a legal challenge under the Charter of Rights, when the legal challenge was launched the Government tried to have it thrown out of court by arguing that the courts had no right to deal with Cabinet decisions on matters of defence and national security.

All we can say, Mr. Speaker, is that the Members opposite should hang their heads in shame for the contempt the Government has shown for Parliament and the courts in this matter.