

*Adjournment Debate*

Secretary of State through some measures encourages and assists provincial Governments in the development of our French-speaking and English-speaking minorities by enabling them to have their children educated in their own language. In this regard, the federal-provincial agreements on education in both official languages are an important part of the cooperation.

As far as court language, I would like to remind the Hon. Member that the provisions of Part XIV.1 of the Criminal Code which give the accused the right to have a trial before a judge or a judge and a jury speaking his or her official language, will be implemented in all jurisdictions by 1990. This is guaranteed by Clause 89 of Bill C-72. In the meantime, Clause 98 of the same Bill provides that in all the provinces where Part XIV.1 is not yet in force, the accused has a right to the interpretation of proceedings both at the preliminary hearing and at the trial, and the witnesses can testify in the official language of their choice. Needless to say the Minister of Justice is in consultation with the provinces . . .

**Mr. Gauthier:** Eleven years!

**Mr. Vincent:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member from the Opposition says: Eleven years. The Conservative Party as been in power for only four years. More has been done in the last four years than in the last eleven years. The Opposition member is the one who brought the issue.

Hence, needless to underline the fact that the Minister of Justice continues his consultations with the provinces in order that Part XIV.1 of the Code be applied as soon as possible. Such efforts have already brought in 1987 three provinces, including Saskatchewan, to proclaim these clauses.

Madam Speaker, as far as the province of Saskatchewan is concerned, the Hon. Member should know that the Prime Minister has written the provincial Premier to confirm the statement made earlier by the federal Minister of Justice to the effect that the Canadian government is ready to offer the same help it previously gave in similar circumstances in view of a full application of the Supreme Court decision. Furthermore, the Prime Minister has asked the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State to immediately resume discussions with Saskatchewan officials. As well, the Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State to personally negotiate a general agreement on official languages with the province of Saskatchewan. The Hon. Member will thus recognize that the Canadian Government does not spare its efforts in order to try and solve this national issue.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p. m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.07 p. m.