

Société franco-manitobaine. The result of these discussions is the legislation now being considered by the Manitoba legislature which in essence is supported by today's resolution in the House.

When this process is completed and when it is passed by Parliament, as I am convinced it will be, as an amendment to the Manitoba Act, it will become part of the Constitution of Canada. I want to emphasize a few points about this important resolution in the Manitoba legislature. It not only conforms with the constitutional requirement established in 1870 that English and French have equal status in the legislature and courts of Manitoba, it also extends with constitutional guarantees many provincial services to Franco-Manitobans in their own language.

The second point I would like to stress—and I say this particularly as the Leader of a federal Party—is that the essentials of the resolution in the Manitoba legislature were the product of Manitobans. Although certain technical details were provided by the federal Government, it is of great importance for us in this Parliament to recognize that this resolution is a western Canadian solution to a western Canadian problem which affects us all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: The third point I would like to stress—and this is important given the very diverse nature of the country and the population of Manitoba—is that the resolution before the legislature of Manitoba has the support of the spokesmen for the Indian and Métis people of Manitoba. It has the support of virtually all organized ethnic groups in Manitoba and, it goes without saying, the support of the Government of Manitoba. In short, most of the leadership of those who constitute a majority in Manitoba are now fighting for the rights of the minority. It is very important for us to bear witness to this today.

Therefore, in this context I want to say that we in the rest of Canada owe the Government of Manitoba, Franco-Manitobans, Métis, Indians and the ethnic community of Manitoba, our appreciation for their initiative, our gratitude for their imagination, and our support for their leadership.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: In conclusion, what we are doing today in unanimously supporting this resolution goes beyond support for the details of a particular Bill in a single Province on a given date. We are now acting in the spirit of those who created Canada in 1867, who out of necessity and by imagination created our fundamental duality. We are supporting a spirit of tolerance and a respect for diversity which should always be the hallmark of Canada and of Canadians. Never again should any Canadian say—

[*Translation*]

—I am a stranger in my own country.

Business of the House

[*English*]

And, with the kind of collective leadership demonstrated by all Canada's national Parties today, I am confident that in the future of our great land no Canadian ever again will have to say that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Pursuant to House Order of October 5, 1983, this resolution is deemed to have been passed unanimously.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, October 5, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, after the last hour everything seems rather anticlimatic, but I would direct the usual Thursday question to the Government House Leader and ask him what the business for the remainder of the week will be and to take us as far along as he can into next week.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, in the same kind of spirit we could add something to Bill C-155 and it could be disposed of very quickly, within the next few hours. But presuming that we will need time to talk about it, I want to confirm to the House that we will be dealing with Bill C-155 respecting the Crownest Pass freight rates today, tomorrow and Tuesday of next week. I will advise the House if there is any change, and so far as the business for next Thursday is concerned, in due course.

Mr. Nielsen: I thank the Government House Leader for that. I trust he is sufficiently recovered from his affliction to convene a House Leaders' meeting at an early date, subject to the way he feels physically, so that we might discuss other pressing matters which we have not done for over two weeks now and which have nothing to do with Bill C-155.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the Hon. Member for his wishes for a speedy recovery. I can assure him that my health is quite good and was certainly not my reason for not having any meetings during the past two weeks. Actually, since many members had indicated a desire to speak to the Bill we are debating in the House, there was no need to have meetings in order to discuss business of the House for the