

### Government Orders

First, as anyone who is watching this place today knows, there is very grave concern here in this Chamber about events in the other place. Within the bounds of the rules that we have to govern us, there has been extensive comment today.

The question is whether it would be appropriate to have an emergency debate today with respect to those events. I have given this very careful consideration today because I have had notice. I am inclining not to accept the applications of the two hon. members at this time, not because this is not a serious matter, but because it is probably appropriate to see if the other place can sort out its difficulties.

I am very conscious that in turning down an application for an emergency debate there must be no confusion in the minds of the public that hears the application and hears my answer that that rejection is necessarily for all time or that it ignores the seriousness of the matter raised.

I know hon. members will understand that it is not particularly easy in a situation like this for the Speaker of the House to make this ruling but I think that today, given events as they presently are, it would be appropriate to see if the other place can resolve its difficulties.

I thank both hon. members for giving me notice. I have taken their applications very seriously.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CANADIAN HERITAGE LANGUAGES INSTITUTE ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-37, an act to establish the Canadian Heritage Languages Institute, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and Motion No. 1 of Ms. Mitchell (p. 13846).

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Before Question Period the hon. member for Nunatsiak had the floor. I will recognize the hon. member.

**Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak):** Madam Speaker, I would just like to continue with the amendment of

the hon. member for Vancouver East to the Canadian Heritage Languages Institute Act.

I would like to quote from some letters that arrived in my office with regard to the Canadian Heritage Languages Institute Act. This one is from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, which is the representative organization for all the Inuit in Canada. I will read part of the letter which was written to the Secretary of State of Canada. It states:

Unlike other minorities in Canada, we have no homelands in which our language and our culture can flourish, other than the Canadian North. As native people, we have special rights by virtue of our aboriginal status. These rights have been enshrined in the Canadian Constitution and are part of the laws, customs and treaties of the land. Although these aboriginal rights have not been fully defined, it is certain that they will include the right to the protection and enhancement of native languages and cultures.

That is the feeling of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and all the Inuit, that aboriginal languages have to be recognized by themselves and not as part of a larger group of languages.

I would also like to read another letter from the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations to the hon. members of Parliament, which in part says:

Although we understand Aboriginal languages are not excluded from the Canadian Heritage Languages Institute Act, First Nations do not wish to be included in the definition of "Heritage Languages" in Bill C-37. We are the "founding" languages of Canada, and given the precarious future of our endangered languages, require a separate Aboriginal Languages Foundation/Institute.

It is with these kinds of letters and the support that we have from the various aboriginal groups that we press forward not to be included in the Canadian Heritage Languages Act but that aboriginal languages be recognized on their own merits as the founding languages of this nation.

Earlier this year the Government of Canada slashed its funding to the aboriginal communications sector. When that occurred several things happened which cut back on either the education of aboriginal languages through the media or in other ways caused us suffering.

I would again like to refer to a copy of the press release by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation which is the TV arm of the Inuit Communications Society. It says in the press release issued on February 22, 1990:

The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) may lose more than a quarter of its funding as a result of the new federal budget. The \$600,000.00 cut will have an immediate and devastating impact on Canada's leading aboriginal television network.