

Privilege

• (1500)

[Translation]

LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. In exchange for a federal contribution totalling \$26 million over ten years, Saskatchewan promised to set up a system for the control and management of minority schools by the Fransaskois.

We know the provincial government has withdrawn from this agreement. Since Saskatchewan broke its contract, shouldn't the federal government withdraw its contribution and give it to the minority so that it can look after its own interests?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, there is a Canada-Saskatchewan agreement involving \$26 million. As I said before, I regret the delay in introducing legislation to hand over management of the schools to the francophone community and francophone parents. Certain amounts of money are being transferred through this agreement and will be used in a process that is now taking place, and we will stand by the agreement that is now in place. I see the Saskatchewan government's commitment as a very firm one, despite the delay, and our commitment is firm as well.

[English]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that minorities have the right to control and manage their own educational institutions.

We know that four provinces, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and P.E.I. have such a system. None of the other have it. I ask the Secretary of State: Will he convene a conference of the provinces to discuss this matter with a set timetable, with something like a constructive approach to settle this problem which is getting out of hand?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting in two weeks or a little

less with the Minister of Education for Alberta, Mr. Dinning. I intend to see what progress we can make.

It comes about as a result of a very constructive meeting I had with ACFA, *Association canadienne française de l'Alberta*. I do intend to write to all my provincial counterparts and do hope to be able to make very important progress on this matter, that I know is of extreme concern to the member and to all members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise the House that I have notice of a question of privilege from the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam. Immediately after that I will be hearing the hon. House leader of the government. However, with the consent of the House the House leader has a matter which I think might be helpful to the House. If I could have consent I would hear him first. Then I would hear the hon. member. I need the consent.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate that it is my intention to call an Opposition Day tomorrow, to designate tomorrow a Supply Day for the opposition.

* * *

PRIVILEGE**COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises out of an answer in Question Period.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, for three years I have been doggedly trying to get the government to deal with the question of international arms dealers, and specifically our involvement in the Iranian contra affair. I put the question to the Prime Minister today and he suggested that it is somehow subversive, that is disloyal or traitorous.

I have a sense of humour like the Prime Minister, but I put it as a very serious question. It is a serious matter. It is not a joke. For three years we have been trying to get the government to make public an investigation in Canada over this very serious matter.