

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 10, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to order made Monday, March 9, 1992, I would ask the Hon. President of the Privy Council of Canada and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs to make a brief statement on the recognition of Louis Riel.

[*English*]

LOUIS RIEL

STATEMENT PURSUANT TO ORDER

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce this resolution which I propose to read before my remarks. The resolution agreed to by members of this House and of the other place is the following:

That this House take note that the Métis people of Rupert's Land and the North Western Territory through democratic structures and procedures took effective steps to maintain order and protect the lives, rights and property of the people of the Red River;

That this House take note that, in 1870, under the leadership of Louis Riel, the Métis of the Red River adopted a List of Rights;

That this House take note that, based on the List of Rights, Louis Riel negotiated the terms for the admission of Rupert's Land and the North Western Territory into the Dominion of Canada;

That this House take note that these terms for admission form part of the *Manitoba Act*;

That this House take note that, after negotiating take Manitoba's entry into Confederation, Louis Riel was elected thrice to the House of Commons;

[*English*]

That this House take note that, in 1885, Louis Riel paid with his life for his leadership in a movement which fought for the maintenance of the rights and freedoms of the Métis people;

That this House take note that the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the existing aboriginal and treaty right of the Métis;

That this House take note that since the death of Louis Riel, the Métis people have honoured his memory and continued his purposes in their honourable striving for the implementation of those rights;

That this House recognize the unique and historic role of Louis Riel as a founder of Manitoba and his contribution in the development of Confederation; and

[*Translation*]

2. That this House support by its actions the true attainment, both in principle and practice, of the constitutional rights of the Metis people.

[*English*]

Sir, it is a particular honour for me to move this motion in the presence in the galleries today of Mr. Yvon Dumont, who is the Speaker of the Métis National Council, the presidents of the Métis associations of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Northwest Territories, and other leaders of the Métis people of Canada.

I should say that I note, as I hope the House will, the presence in the Chamber of the member for Provencher, a minister of this government, representing now the seat that was occupied and to which Louis Riel was elected three times when he was a member of this House.