

received by both communities. Alliance Quebec, the Francophones outside Quebec, the Commissioner of Official Languages, the people interested in this issue have all said:

[English]

It is a step forward.

[Translation]

—towards national unity, a better understanding between the two solitudes which are trying to get together through Constitutional acts and legislations which are coherent, significant, inspired by justice, fairness and a desire to make Canada a country where two nations can live side by side and prosper.

Madam Speaker, I wish my colleagues who moved this negative motion could nevertheless transform it in an appeal to all the best elements in this country to get together in an act of faith and understanding in this country and its linguistic duality which makes us different and is responsible for Canada being what it is.

[English]

Linguistic duality means Canada, a real Canada, different from the American people, a country in itself. That is what dualistic reality means. We must believe in that. We must open our minds and our ears to other people, to other sensibilities. We need that piece of legislation for Canada, for the unity of Canada, for a better understanding between Canadians. We need that piece of legislation. Instead of blaming the Government—

[Translation]

I would rather call upon the Government and the Ministers, both English and French-speaking, to find the time as soon as possible for this Bill—which is a step forward for our country—to be debated in a dignified, clean and honest manner, in the presence of all Members and of all parties.

I call upon my French and English-speaking colleagues to support the Standing Joint Committee on official languages and all interested Members in asking the Prime Minister and all responsible Ministers to proceed as soon as possible with Bill C-72 which will provide for a better Canada.

**Mr. Lanthier:** Madam Speaker, my colleague has a reputation for eloquence and I thank him for it as well as for his colourful and sometimes forthright language.

However, as he mentioned Meech Lake at the beginning of his speech, I would like, with your permission, to take up and comment a point he has made and then ask for his opinion. Last Saturday, in a riding close to mine, that of Saint-Henri—Westmount, a mock Parliament meeting was held for all English-speaking school children of the region. It was a sorry state of affairs that they had to ask for help from the next riding because the representative for Saint-Henri—Westmount never showed up, and he is not likely to do so, as things stand now, even in his own riding. There is little danger, of course, that he would show up in the Saint-Henri part of the

### Supply

Saint-Henri—Westmount riding, since he voted against Meech Lake, which means that he voted against a united Canada.

On his home ground, however, in the English-speaking part—

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a question, make a comment. An English-speaking girl of 18, from Westmount, asked me the following question. Just imagine the kind of education she received from her federal Member:

[English]

“Are you allowed to speak French in the House of Commons?”

[Translation]

That happened Saturday, in the riding of Westmount. As a Quebecer, I always thought that people from Westmount did not want to be Quebecers, but by God, the truth is they don't want to be Canadians. I answered to her in French: “Yes, not only is it tolerated that we speak French, but we feel right at home in the House of Commons which belongs to us as much as it belongs to English-speaking Canadians.”

The time has come to pass that Bill with all the seriousness it requires. I would like to ask the Hon. Member who just spoke what he would have answered to that girl who asked me Saturday:

● (1750)

[English]

Are you allowed to speak French in the House of Commons?

[Translation]

**Mr. Hamelin:** Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comment which shows, once again, how constant progress and greater interrelation between communities must take place. I think the slogan we should make ours and that probably underlies Bill C-72 is greater tolerance with respect for differences. We know things are quite different in Saint-Henri—Westmount. Through you and others, perhaps that young person should also learn greater tolerance with respect for differences. And to respect our differences, we must learn what they are, which is probably what she will do from now on.

Madam Speaker, with the permission of my colleagues, I would like to yield the floor for the few minutes remaining to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme.)

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I see that the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) is seeking the floor. There is still a period of time for questions or comments. On the other hand, the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin) had been trying to give the floor to the