

Government Orders

Provinces have not had very good records with respect to their language minority.

The initiatives to protect those language minorities have come from the federal government following the royal commission on bilingualism a few years ago, and so far the movement has been progressive with respect to the protection of language minorities by the federal government. We would hope that the federal government, in order to get a new constitutional deal, will not sell out the language minorities in this country.

• (1310)

A very important issue to me, which has been left on the table as Parliament adjourns today, is the question of gun control. About a week or so ago, I tabled in this House a petition with over a half a million names, asking the government to put on the restricted list paramilitary semi-automatic rifles, the same kind of rifle that was used by Marc Lepine to shoot down 14 women at the Ecole Polytechnique in December of 1989. That semi-automatic is a type that is used by many police forces, by many assault groups. It can fire up to 30 bullets. It has no place for sale over the counter as a hunting rifle.

The government tabled Bill C-80, which we thought was an improvement with respect to gun control. That bill was then set aside and it looks like it is going to die because the session will be prorogued. A parliamentary committee has come up with proposals, some of which are good, some of which are not so good, but here we are adjourning this session, more than a year and a half after the massacre at the Ecole Polytechnique, and still we have got nothing on gun control.

Mr. Speaker, you indicated to me that my time is coming to an end. I simply wanted to put on record that the government is adjourning at a time when there are many critical issues to deal with in this country. This government has lost the support of the Canadian people. It is at the lowest rate in the polls that any government has ever been in Canadian history. The Prime Minister has lost the support of the Canadian people. This motion to adjourn today for four weeks demonstrates again why they have lost that support. The country is faced with

serious problems, but the government does not know how to deal with them so it decides to adjourn. What a sad day for Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn prematurely, I would like to congratulate our colleague, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who is extremely concerned about the state of the economy in Montreal. He talks about it often and I know that he is very interested in it.

My colleague, Mr. Allmand, knows the situation of the textile industry and clothing manufacturers in Montreal—and I know something about it because I visited some manufacturers in Montreal. This industry is in a steep decline. Forecasts are that in five or six years—and these are not my figures, Mr. Speaker; they come from various associations of clothing manufacturers in Montreal—the industry will literally be wiped out in Montreal. You know that in the past, Montreal was one of the great centres in North America.

I would like our colleague to tell us what remedy he thinks this government could give the textile industry and at the same time whether he thinks this premature adjournment should not be considered an admission of failure.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right. The textile industry was always very important in Montreal. It has given employment to thousands of people in Montreal.

But you know that during the free trade debate in the 1988 election, the industry itself said many times that this agreement with the United States would threaten their industry and many jobs in it.

[*English*]

The warnings that were given to us during the free trade debate are now coming to pass. Industry after industry, in the clothing business and in the textile business in Montreal are shutting down or moving to other countries. Workers who found jobs there for years and years are left without any work at all. My good friend