

I have not had the experience of studying this project in the Official Languages Committee. If it goes there, I would certainly hope to have that experience. I am not aware of whether this Bill is totally ideal in its drafting or whether in fact changes or amendments might need to be made.

The question of Crown corporations has been raised. I do not see any fundamental problems there. If those problems are there, they can ventilated before the Official Languages Committee. However, simply to leave the matter now on the grounds that perhaps there were members of the Conservative caucus who felt that the Official Languages Act was a mistake, who declared themselves publicly beforehand—

Mr. Lewis: That is nonsense and you know it.

Mr. Cassidy: Well, I believe there are members from the Manitoba wing of the Conservative Party who made their feelings quite clear—

Mr. Lewis: It is not only a lot of nonsense, but unparliamentary.

Mr. Cassidy:—except when they were called to discipline by their Leader. At that point they reluctantly and grudgingly said they supposed that they supported the Official Languages Act.

Mr. Lewis: Absolute nonsense.

Mr. Cassidy: But it was grudging, and we all know, Mr. Speaker, that some of those people have been quite active in their support of the other side of the issue, as has been the Leader and the entire caucus of the Conservative Party in the Province of Manitoba. It is to the discredit of the Conservative Party that its colleagues in the Province of Manitoba sought to exploit the language issue and sought to inflame that particular issue over several months in the course of the last year or so.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that this House should acknowledge the great courage of Howard Pawley, the Premier of Manitoba, his Cabinet and the New Democratic Government.

[*Translation*]

The courage demonstrated by Premier Howard Fawley, his Cabinet and the New Democratic Party, the Government of the Province of Manitoba, faced with the opposition of the Conservative Party in that province and the efforts made by the NDP Government in Manitoba, not to solve a problem of their own making but one which began with the Conservative Party, I do not know precisely when, that problem has been with us for over half a century. So, the courage demonstrated by the New Democratic Party in trying to find a solution, to negotiate a settlement with the French-Speaking community in Manitoba—

Mr. Speaker, we intend to get more votes in the Province of Quebec in the next election. As I said when I was in Quebec City last Friday, our party caucus intends to open the way to

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Quebec, to co-operate with our party in that Province, to provide Quebecers with a real choice in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed during the last election that Quebecers very clearly wanted a change in the Liberal Party. They have stated bluntly that they are looking for a change. But in many cases the change they got was not what they expected.

The only option available in the last election was the Conservative Party. That is why the voters elected so many Conservative Members of Parliament. I suspect that many Quebecers have agreed with the policy put forward by the Conservative Party during the election campaign. But I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether those Quebecers who chose to vote for the Conservative Party really wanted the policies that are now being suggested, that are being implemented by the Conservative Government, now that they are in office and not simply campaigning?

I noted, Mr. Speaker, how the Conservative Party said one thing during the last election but is now admitting frankly that they withheld their policies from voters for fear of not winning public favour—

[*English*]

Mr. Lewis: Will you address the Bill?

Mr. Cassidy: I was simply replying, Mr. Speaker, to the interjections of the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis). Perhaps I can now return to the Bill.

I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker, in the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has indicated that it is no longer a priority for him to ensure that Ontario take the necessary steps to become officially bilingual. I guess I can comment on the fact that the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Davis, spent his last day in the Legislature on Friday. He is standing down and a new leader will come to the fore after the convention which is being held in January. I am disappointed that not one of the four candidates for Premier of Ontario is prepared to put his reputation on the line and say that he is prepared to make Ontario officially—

Mr. Lewis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have carefully read the very thoughtful Bill which was put forward by the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). In that particular Bill there is absolutely no reference to the leadership campaign in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is not a point of order.

• (1750)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Cassidy: My colleague comes from Ontario, Mr. Speaker, and I do like to talk about matters relating to Ontario. He has criticized my comments on Quebec, and after having made