

vital tool for development. No one can question the importance of setting up a French language newspaper that will be read by a quarter of a million people spread out over the vast territory of New Brunswick.

In fact, my decision was in line with the recommendations of a study and conciliation mission I had entrusted to Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, then Editor-in-Chief of *Le Devoir*. He emphasized that the lack of an information medium reflecting the social, economic, political and cultural context of the Francophone community in New Brunswick was a major obstacle to establishing the communications essential to the development of this community.

He also underlined the urgent need for a provincial daily newspaper that would serve the Francophone community in New Brunswick.

We realize that the viability of a daily newspaper in New Brunswick, available throughout the province, cannot be guaranteed by its advertising potential alone. A form of financial assistance was necessary and was becoming increasingly indispensable to the social and cultural well-being of this community.

However, it was necessary to ensure that the organizational basis for this newspaper would remain strictly neutral and protected from any kind of interference. We have this assurance because our contribution is paid directly into the trust fund which, under the terms of the trust agreement, provides stringent guarantee against any kind of interference whatsoever. The only right both levels of government have is to recover their respective contributions in the event the trust fund is dissolved.

The contribution of the Department of the Secretary of State, which is about \$2 million, will be paid out over three financial years, with the first payment of \$700,000 being made before April 1 of this year. This type of assistance is part of one of the Department's long established programs which provide support for official language communities in the form of grants that may be as much as, but not more, than 50 per cent of the cost of certain projects initiated by the provinces.

The new daily will therefore be an independent newspaper, which, I am sure, will reflect various points of view, whatever their tendency, but will also focus on all the positive aspects of the Acadian and Canadian reality, in other words, on those aspects that are likely to stimulate the pride of this community and strengthen its faith in its own future.

Honourable senators, in concluding I would like to say that the outcome of this project, which made the headlines, has encouraged those who were looking forward to the departure of Mr. Hatfield. In fact, there are some who have been looking forward to his departure for as long as twelve or fourteen years. I suppose they will feel victorious, sooner or later, when the Premier decides or others decide for him that it is time to

[Senator Simard.]

go. Nevertheless, this project is one of a long list of beneficial measures with which he has been associated.

I felt I ought to draw your attention to this matter. I am glad that Senator Corbin and other senators took part in the debate. Everyone said what he wanted to say. But one thing is certain, the message conveyed by Premier Hatfield and the contribution he has made to society will be an example for all those men and women who will have the courage, not just in their respective provinces but across this country, to defend the essence of Canada, which means a country where many different communities and at least two major communities are trying to live and work together and prosper in order to make their contribution to the development of this country.

Thank you, honourable senators.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, if no other senator wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

● (1600)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY AND PROGRAMS

CONSIDERATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE—ORDER STANDS

On the order:

Consideration of the Fourth Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages Policy and Programs, presented in the Senate on 6th February, 1986.—
(Honourable Senator David).

Hon. Paul David: Honourable senators, after speaking with the senator concerned, Senator Wood, I would like to move that this report be placed on the orders of the day in the name of the joint chairman of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages Policy and Programs, Senator Wood, if this is agreeable.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Order stands in the name of Senator Wood.

RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

MOTION RE CANADIAN FORCES—SPOUSES OF MEMBERS— MOTION IN AMENDMENT ADOPTED—DEBATE ADJOURNED ON MOTION AS AMENDED

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Marsden, seconded by the Honourable Senator Stewart (*Antigonish-Guysborough*):

That the Senate do urge the Government of Canada to permit freedom of assembly and speech, and such other freedoms guaranteed to all other Canadian citizens, for spouses of members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

And on the motion in amendment thereto of the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator Fairbairn, that the motion be not now adopted, but