

Métis Nation

Member for Laval-des-Rapides, but in 1976, they sure had enough knowledge to throw them out.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides should know in his great wisdom that when one makes forecasts and establishes programs, a great many things can change nine years down the road. When in 1977 the provinces and the federal Government came to an agreement on a formula, on rates and amounts, they knew quite well that some time down the road, the situation could change and when it did, the parties would sit down and negotiate again. That's what has happened, Mr. Speaker.

● (1650)

[English]

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a return of the Liberal attempt to cut the amount of money available for education and health care across the country. It is quite obvious that the tendency towards cutting which appears in the Nielsen Report is going to be in place for quite some time. Federal transfer payments to the provinces are obviously not going to be allowed to increase in line with increases in the Gross National Product or program requirements. This is simply a re-run of the 1981-82 Liberal operation to cut back on the amount of money going to the provinces. While the cost of operation of health care and education increases, the federal government contribution towards those costs decreases. We should recognize that, when we look at the Nielsen Report and other government policies, what is happening is a tendency to keep on—

● (1700)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. I am very sorry to interrupt the Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo).

[Translation]

It being 5 o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's *Order Paper*.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS

[English]

HISTORIC EVENTS

SUGGESTED REAFFIRMATION OF MÉTIS RIGHTS

The House resumed from Monday, February 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Penner:

That:

Whereas 1985 is the centenary of the Northwest Resistance, the most important event in the history of the Métis Nation and a milestone in the history of Canada; and

Whereas the leader of the Métis people, Louis David Riel, was executed for his role in that resistance; and

Whereas Louis David Riel negotiated Manitoba's entry into Confederation and was thrice elected to the House of Commons; and

Whereas the Métis people have continued to strive, since the death of Louis David Riel, for the recognition of their rights; and

Whereas the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognized and affirmed the rights of the Métis people;

Be it resolved that this House

1. acknowledge the significant contributions of the Métis people to the development of the West and the creation of Canada;
2. recognize Louis David Riel as the founder of Manitoba and a father of Confederation;
3. celebrate with the Métis their unique culture and heritage;
4. support self-government and a land base for the Métis.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): We are resuming debate today on this motion and I may remind Members that the period allowed for speeches is now ten minutes under the new rules. Resuming debate.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my home is not many miles from Batoche. I grew up accepting the stature of Louis Riel as a great leader who had attempted democratically to deal with problems of his people. He attempted in the Red River settlement area and later in Batoche to unite the Métis of the area with the other pioneer farmers who felt the same kind of isolation as did the Métis in the area. He tried to unite them into a democratic and political force which would make the Canadian Government deal with the problems of their life and their lifestyle as a developing nation.

Louis Riel's efforts had borne fruit in the Red River settlement. The Government, under the Right Hon. John A. Macdonald, had acquiesced and accepted the basic request of the provisional Government of Manitoba for entrance into Canada as a province. The Government accepted that, but then John A. Macdonald and his Conservative cronies betrayed the people of Manitoba. Instead of acceptance which they had the right to expect, the provisional Government led by Louis Riel was betrayed. Instead of assistance, they got troops. Instead of recognition, Louis Riel was hunted by those troops and several attempts were made to put him under arrest. He was forced to leave the Red River settlement and go into isolation in the States.

Even as Manitoba was recognized as a province and became one because of the Métis action and the leadership of Louis Riel, he found himself exiled. A few years later when he was called back to help the Métis at Batoche and St. Laurent, St. Louis and Duck Lake, he was called back by the same people who had fought alongside of him in the Red River area. The same people who had been betrayed in the Manitoba settlement were the ones who called him back to lead them in the Batoche area. They were people like the Lepine's and the Fiddlers, the McLeans and the McDougalls, the Parenteaus and the Morins, names which are still prominent names in the Batoche, Duck Lake, St. Laurent and St. Louis districts. Those names and those people have survived in that part of Canada around Batoche. They have been the central core of those communities and have contributed a great deal to Canada.