

*Adjournment Debate*

he is a well-known former professor specializing in labour law at the University of Manitoba law school and that he is no stranger to the public eye, as the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) indicated. He was the first chairman and a strong defender of Manitoba's legal aid program. Often maintaining a high profile on controversial issues, he is apparently known for his wit, intelligence and hard work.

Mr. Penner's association with the intellectual and political left has been well noted and goes back to his family and early days in north Winnipeg. His father, Jacob Penner, was an active Marxist. After service in the Canadian armed forces in World War II and an undergraduate degree earned in 1949, Roland Penner spent ten years operating what was called a left-wing bookstore in Manitoba.

It is our understanding that he gave up his membership in the Communist party in the early 1960s, although following his graduation from law school he practised law with Joe Zuken, a long-time member of Winnipeg city council who is considered by some to be one of western Canada's leading left-wing politicians.

In the early 1970s the NDP government in Manitoba awarded Mr. Penner a Q.C. His most recent appointment, of

course, has been as attorney general in Premier Pawley's New Democratic Party government. In a recent interview, Mr. Penner was asked whether he felt that in relation to his political views he has been misrepresented. His answer was as follows:

What I have always resented from the past is the notion of a label, for anybody. This person is a communist, therefore it follows that this person must believe this. . . . I resent labelling in any area and I simply want to be defined by what I do, rather than by what I was or even by what I say.

In response to the two specific questions raised by the hon. member for Provencher, I would like to say first that I have no knowledge of whether the hon. provincial attorney general is the subject of any security files. Second, as far as this government is concerned, it continues to do business with the government of Manitoba in exactly the same fashion as it will continue to do business and has done business in the past with other provincial governments.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

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