

*Routine Proceedings*

I appreciate that the rule is very circumspect, but the rule is so tight that it does not even give the opportunity for members to vote on this type of motion. The motion moved yesterday makes the motion automatic.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am begging your indulgence to say a few words. I would like to make a few comments on the speeches previously made. I have been in this House, as the hon. member for Churchill mentioned, when there have been other suggestions of rewriting Louis Riel history—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. Is there unanimous consent to allow the member to say a few words?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very short.

I come from an area where there was an injustice done many years ago, when in 1755 the Acadians were expelled. For all the laudable reasons mentioned here about Mr. Louis Riel, member of the House of Commons, perhaps there should be a motion brought by me to redress that wrong. Where do we stop? Benedict Arnold, if he had been on the side that won the war, would not have been hung.

All I want to say is that there have been positive remarks made, especially those by the hon. member for St. Boniface. The motion just hit me yesterday and I most likely might have agreed with it. I appreciate the indulgence of members and I am not going to abuse it. The motion hit me.

We came back after a break. There was not a question to the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs about what is ripping the country apart and out of the blue we start to rewrite a page of history for something that was done in the past.

I must say in conclusion, if there was ever a commentary on the sad state of this Parliament, regardless of some of the nice things said about it today in some of the speeches, this is the best example.

Goodness gracious, who knows? In another Parliament 100 years down the road when we revise history and are politically correct, we will find that Mackenzie King was a security risk because he did things during the war according to a medium's ball that in effect were very *risqué*.

I could go on. The record shows that Churchill had something to do perhaps with that horrible bombing in Dresden which may or may not have been necessary. He kept quiet about Coventry. The record goes on and where does it stop?

Surely members of this House who have spoken well about the past will have the intestinal fortitude to speak on present problems and have the minister respond to questions about the present constitutional problems. That is part of the reason I wanted to speak.

I want to make it very clear that I agree with the member for St. Boniface that if the trial was today many other factors would apply. The fact of the matter is that if this motion had been in the House then, it would not have passed.

I just think it is a waste of our time to in effect revise history because of something which circumstances changed later.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to order made Monday, March 9, 1992, the motion regarding the recognition of Louis Riel which appears on today's Notice Paper is deemed to have been moved, the question thereon is deemed to have been put, and the motion is deemed to have been adopted.

Motion agreed to.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF CANADIAN  
SECTION

**Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague from Richmond—Wolfe and pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report of the activities of the Canadian section of the International Association of French Speaking Parliamentarians at the meeting of the board and commission for co-operation and development held in Berne, Switzerland from January 19 to 25, 1992.