

[Translation]

## THE CONSTITUTION

### JUDICIAL BILINGUALISM—MINISTER OF JUSTICE FACTUM

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

For a week we have been asking the Government questions about the MacDonald case. The House will recall that a broad interpretation of Section 133 is being requested in Quebec to allow Canadians to receive bilingual introductory documents. The Government's position is based on an opinion given by the Department of Justice. The MacDonald case is about rights that are important to Canada's linguistic minorities. I would like to ask my question, considering the Prime Minister's statement yesterday in the House, at page 1150 of *Hansard*:

● (1430)

We believe—

Referring to your Party.

—in the defence of minority rights.

Will the Right Hon. Prime Minister do today what he promised yesterday, that is, revise his position, withdraw this factum from the Supreme Court and inform the House today of his decision?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Justice, who can take care of his own Department, has answered the question correctly. If I am not mistaken, Mr. MacDonald, the protagonist in this case, said yesterday on the TV news that he was satisfied with the representations made by the Minister. Nevertheless, since I have not had an opportunity to read the factum personally, and considering all the attention it is getting, especially from my hon. friend, I shall read it very carefully on the weekend and subsequently report back to my hon. friend. If, after consultation with the Minister, I reach the conclusion that it would be wise to examine this case from another angle, I shall do so without delay.

[English]

### COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Secretary of State, the Minister responsible for official languages and also responsible for the Court Challenges Program, and who has financed Mr. MacDonald to the tune of \$35,000. Was the position stated in the factum submitted by the Minister of Justice the result of a consultation with the Secretary of State, and is there an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Justice regarding consultations on these matters?

**Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member I wish to remind him that the intention of the Court Challenge Program is to deal with test

### Oral Questions

cases. The intention of it is arm's length from the substance of the cases involved.

The arguments here, as the Hon. Member will know, are parallel to similar cases in which previous Governments have intervened in this way. In that circumstance the Secretary of State is not involved with the Minister of Justice in the substance of the issue.

\* \* \*

### FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

#### BENEFIT OF REVIEW PROCESS FOR CANADIAN SUPPLIERS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Prime Minister on the continuing melodrama of FIRA.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Langdon:** Research analysis of FIRA by the son of the Minister for Mining has shown that one positive benefit of FIRA review was to introduce small, new foreign investors to Canadian suppliers from whom the foreign firms then bought supplies. Why will the Prime Minister not keep this review process for new investors, which process has had such positive benefits for Canadian suppliers and the jobs they provide?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is presently being debated before the House. It may very well be that my hon. friend, with his special concern and knowledge of that area, will be able to persuade Members of the House of the validity of his views, in which case they will be incorporated into the final piece of legislation.

I can say that we have broached the matter with open minds in the hope, and in the knowledge, that all Members of the House will take the kinds of positive attitudes expressed by the Hon. Member and support legislation designed to create new jobs and new opportunities in Canada.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I am not certain if it is open minds or vacant minds.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Dick:** Yours?

**Mr. Langdon:** Let me ask the Prime Minister whether he would be prepared, in view of his recognition that there is some substance in the case on this point, to make a recommendation to his own Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion that this particular part of the Bill be reviewed and reconsidered—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am in very great difficulty. I did not realize the subject of the first question was coming this way. The Member does not know, I am sure, because it is a rule peculiar to this House, that questions put during Question Period that are anticipatory of a debate later in the day are not to be