

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister.

This morning the Commissioner of Official Languages tabled a special report condemning the government for its failure to adopt the regulations necessary to implement the Official Languages Act passed by Parliament in 1988 with the support of all political parties. Two and one-half years have passed with increased attacks on bilingualism and this law has not yet been implemented.

Why has the government not tabled these regulations? If the government truly believes in the principles of bilingualism and this law, why does it not show some leadership and have this law implemented as soon as possible?

Hon. Gilles Loiseau (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reaffirm the commitment to the government to issuing these regulations as soon as possible.

I will tell the hon. member, in all frankness, that the law makes the President of the Treasury Board particularly responsible for that area and I take this very seriously. I would not want to introduce regulations which were very advanced without going through them myself and consulting with the *Fédération des francophones hors Québec* and Alliance Quebec. I have been doing that and I have also spoken with the commissioner. I know he has his own views on this, and I respect them.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, that is a lot of nonsense. It has been two and one-half years since the bill was passed and the consultations took place more than a year ago.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, during the debate on Bill C-72, the Prime Minister said that this bill was so important that Parliament should sit around the clock to adopt it.

Is this just another example of the Prime Minister's political rhetoric? If the legislation was so important at the time, is it now less important? Why doesn't the Prime Minister meet with cabinet around the clock to

Business of the House

ensure passage of the regulations and the implementation of this legislation? Why?

Hon. Gilles Loiseau (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I may recall that the Commissioner of Official Languages made some very important nuances that my hon. friend tends to forget. He explained that there were a number of things that had to be improved, but the legislation is in place, it already provides services and there are now 1,600 points of service in Canada. Furthermore, in the public sector, we have finalized 40 memoranda of agreement with the departments in recent months, identifying their responsibilities with respect to official languages.

I realize that we must get on with the regulations, and I am trying to as fast as I can, but I want to do it in such a way that it will help Canada exercise its full responsibility for official languages.

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• (1500)

[English]

POINT OF ORDER

REPLY IN QUESTION PERIOD

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, during an answer I gave earlier today with regard to the situation in Korea, I mentioned China, inadvertently, when I meant to mention the Soviet Union. I want to thank the several colleagues in the House who drew my error to my attention.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I just want to put the question usually put on Thursdays to the government House leader. Could he inform the House what the agenda for the House will be for tomorrow, Friday, and next week, Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Nunziata: And be nice about it, Harvie.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): There is the hon. member for York South—Weston talking about