

*Routine Proceedings*

our constitution, resulted in the failure of the constitutional amendment this spring and summer.

The delays, inaction and negative actions taken against aboriginal people after the tabling of this report indicate that the government was not willing to put native people in the forefront of the agenda in this country. As a result, some significant things happened this summer.

The first was the refusal by Elijah Harper, a member of the legislature in Manitoba, to allow the constitutional amendment to pass in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, which resulted in the failure of the constitutional amendment proposed by the government to bring Quebec into the constitutional family. That was done as a result of the refusal by the government to recognize the legitimate claims by native people in this country to be included in the Constitution and to have their society recognized as a distinctive component of Canadian society.

The second and even more damaging result in terms of what it has done to this country and its reputation in terms of the divisions it has created between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians with the government's refusal to pay attention to this agenda was the incidents we saw this summer at Kanesatake and at Kahnawake, near Montreal. The spectre of armed native warriors throwing up barricades, after years of frustration, having to resort to arms in order to persuade this government to pay attention to the aboriginal agenda, has been an embarrassment to all Canadians and an embarrassment to this country's reputation world-wide.

• (1230)

Those have been the results of the failure of the government to deal with the aboriginal agenda that our committee talked about and assembled in this report that was tabled in the House on March 29, 1990.

There has to be a more effective government response. There has to be a much more effective government way to deal with this aboriginal agenda.

What happened as a result of the debate on the motion that the government tabled on the first day of the House reconvening? Of course, that motion is now obsolete. Even though it is adjourned, it calls for the Mohawks and their allies to leave the treatment centre at Kanesatake, to submit to Canadian law and turn over

their arms to the police and to the Armed Forces. That is now an obsolete motion.

It is the only thing the government has on the agenda of this House to deal with the concerns of aboriginal people. There is nothing else on the agenda in this House. Unfortunately, that is an indicator of the kind of good faith with which Canada deals with native people. There has to be something more coming from this Parliament than that feeble motion, presented the first day, which is now obsolete.

That motion also refers the issue at Kanesatake and Kahnawake to the select Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General. This is a completely inappropriate reference. We should be referring that to the committee that drafted this agenda in the first place and having the confidence of native people in Canada that it is capable of dealing with those issues.

Since that motion is obsolete, I would suggest, as others have done in this House, that the government present a new motion to the House which sets up a parliamentary commission or a special inquiry into the events which led to the confrontations at Kanesatake and Kahnawake this summer, investigates the appropriateness of the behaviour of all parties involved, investigates the type of reaction that the government got involved in, and makes a report back to this House and to the people of Canada on exactly what led to that incident and provide recommendations as to how we can avoid those incidents in the future.

This is an excellent recounting of the grievances of aboriginal people in this country. I think it deserves to be read by every single member of Parliament and by all Canadians. It is basically grievances and problems as outlined by the aboriginal people of Canada themselves and conveyed to this House by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs.

Essentially what this report does is call on Parliament to make the 1990s the decade in which Canada commits itself to dealing with the aboriginal agenda. I think that some proclamation should come from the Parliament of Canada indicating that it intends to deal with the aboriginal agenda in that way, by making a proclamation declaring the 1990s to be the decade of Canada's aboriginal people, the decade in which this government and this Parliament intends to set in motion the pro-