Opposition is false in its entirety and unworthy of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that I was prompt, and a lot more prompt than the Leader of the Opposition, I might add, in making plain my rejection of this action by the Government of Quebec.

On December 19, which was a Monday, there was an exchange and the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand), in *Hansard*, said in a question to me. He said: "Is it not true that the federal Government has the responsibility to communicate with the Government of Quebec concerning the measures proposed by Mr. Bourassa yesterday?"

And I responded: "I already communicated with Mr. Bourassa yesterday, and I told him the position of my Government and of this House on such a matter. I expressed the desire, the wish that the Government of Quebec find a formula, as the Supreme Court suggested, whereby the preponderance of French at all times in Quebec would be assured together with the respective minorities and their freedom of expression, as the Supreme Court wanted and as the Quebec Charter wanted as well".

The Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce then responded on the second question in regard to my answer. He said: "The Prime Minister seems to have said that he did ask the Prime Minister of Quebec to consider implementing legislation that would respect the judgment of the Supreme Court".

The Member for Shefford then came on: "The Prime Minister said that he expects the Quebec Government to abide by the provisions of the Supreme Court ruling". And I answered that of course we do. The Member for Shefford asked again: "Does the Prime Minister agree with the Supreme Court position concerning the primacy of French inside and outside"? Of course we approve.

And I went on: "I expressed the wish on behalf of all parliamentarians, I think, that both would be reconciled in a Bill whose effect would be to respect fully the French dimension of this Quebec reality, while at the same time respecting the basic values in the Québec Charter of Rights and Freedoms". That was on December 19.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Before the Bill came in.

Mr. Mulroney: Before the Bill came in.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That is right.

Mr. Mulroney: On the 20th in response to questions from the Member for Ottawa—Vanier, I said: "Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's question is troubling, because according to answers given yesterday and published in *Le Devoir*, and I quote: "Mrs. Finestone congratulated Brian Mulroney for defending minority rights yesterday. Mr. Allmand concluded by saying that he was satisfied with the Prime Minister's statement that the decision of the court and the two leaders, federal and provincial should be respected". This is what was stated in the House of Commons. Now, perhaps my right hon. friend will want to rise at an appropriate time and apologize for his comment. While this debate was going on and while we were defending minority rights in the Province of Quebec, as elsewhere—and there may have been reasons for it—the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) was not here. I was here defending minority rights, as I always am.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Now we get to December 21, three days later, and in comes the Leader of the Opposition. His question is:

> Does the Prime Minister approve of the legislation introduced by Premier Bourassa applying the so-called inside-outside formula which excludes the use of non-French signs outside business establishments? Does he think that the Bill meets the test of the Supreme Court of Canada judgment?

My response is:

> Mr. Speaker, in the last two days I have indicated that I neither approve of it nor do I believe that it meets the test of what the Supreme Court said. and I indicated this in response to the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and other Members of the Leader of the Opposition's Party. . .
>
> Anything less than that, of course, is disappointing to us. I have conveyed this to the House time and time again. I have responded to Members of the Leader's Party. In respect of the protection of minority rights in the Province of Quebec both the Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) and the Member for Notre-Dame-de Grâce complimented me and congratulated the Government on its stand on Monday and Tuesday.

I know the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce to be a man of honour and he complimented me for my stand in defending minority rights in December. I know he will rise in his place and do no less today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I know that my right hon. friend, will, upon reflection, want to correct that very serious mistake and the fact that he made it about my participation in this debate on this very sensitive national issue. I know that given the opportunity he will rise and do that.