

These residents are concerned about the lack of recognition of Canada's multicultural heritage and reality as a fundamental characteristic of the country in the opening clause of the Meech Lake Accord.

Given the fact that a third of Canadians are of neither French nor English origin, they ask the Government to urge the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to amend the constitutional accord by entrenching our nation's multicultural heritage as a fundamental characteristic in the opening clause of the Constitution.

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[Translation]

#### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 184.

[Text]

U.S. SUPERCOMPUTING RESEARCH CENTRE

Question No. 184—**Mr. Nunziata:**

Has the Government been approached by the United States Government with respect to participating in the United States Supercomputing Research Centre, and, if so, what are the terms of this arrangement?

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology):** In so far as the Ministry of State for Science and Technology is concerned, the Canadian Government has not been approached by the United States Government regarding participation in a United States Supercomputing Research Centre. In fact, we have no knowledge of the existence of such a centre. However, the U.S. National Science Foundation supports a national network of supercomputers for advance scientific and engineering research, principally in the academic community. In addition, several U.S. government departments maintain supercomputer facilities for in-house research. Notable among these is the Department of Energy, which maintains a number of national laboratories equipped with supercomputers. More recently, the Department of Defense has proposed a domestic effort to establish a supercomputer "test-bed" for advance systems associated with the Strategic Defense Initiative. This proposal has not yet received funding.

Canadian government officials are aware of the importance of supercomputing in large scale scientific and engineering problems and are actively considering our national needs for such computers.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

S. O. 29

**Mr. Speaker:** The question enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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[English]

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

SUSPENSION OF FREE TRADE TALKS

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to bring to the attention of Hon. Members the fact that the Chair has received two applications under Standing Order 29 for a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing an urgent matter.

I should advise the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) that his application was received first and that I will hear him. However, naturally I want to extend courtesy to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) whose application came in only a few minutes later. I will certainly hear him as well.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 29, I seek leave for an emergency debate on the suspension of the free trade talks.

The Government has made a free trade agreement the heart of its economic policies. Now the chief negotiator, Simon Reisman, says that in his view the talks are over. This has crucial significance for the country. In effect the Government has hit a brick wall.

I believe that we must debate what the Government plans to do next to stop any desperate last minute give-aways to the United States. We must also debate the new trade directions which we should take to make up for the wasted time this free trade thrust has cost Canada.

In short, we need an emergency debate to inform the country and to start the process of repairing the damage.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have to express to Your Honour the importance of the subject. The Government itself has identified free trade negotiations as its number one economic priority and has heralded it as the one and only economic program which it has put forward in a significant way to try to deal with the questions of unemployment and other economic problems in the country. The fact that the talks were halted yesterday, and as far as the chief negotiator is concerned they are over, obviously throws everything into total confusion and chaos.