

imagination of any other Canadian who even bothers to listen.

[English]

It is important that I say this in English, Mr. Speaker. The rest of the country has yet to realize that we are on the verge of a constitutional crisis which could result in the end of Canada. I hope that in some small way this debate and even the debate of the Spicer commission and, certainly, the debate being undertaken by the Bélanger-Campeau Commission will send a signal to the rest of Canada that Quebec has waited too long and the rest of Canada must wake up if we are going to be able to save the country in time.

[Translation]

First of all, listen to what Quebec social groups and unions are saying: They already want to leave.

[English]

They are already speaking about what they will do after the beginning of a sovereign Quebec.

[Translation]

Moreover, it is not only unions and social groups who are saying that, Mr. Speaker, but also financial organizations such as the *Mouvement Desjardins*.

[English]

When a major financial institution of the nature of the *Mouvement Desjardins* calls for independence, we know that the time for Canada is quickly running out.

[Translation]

Moreover, the *Conseil du patronat* wants Quebec to be distinctive not only through its language, but also through a whole series of other institutions including the Civil Code, the Revenue Department, networks of manpower centres and financial institutions. Others, such as the Quebec Chamber of Commerce, although they would prefer to keep a Canadian money system, are already talking about the possibility of a separate currency for Quebec. People have to listen, Mr. Speaker!

[English]

Listen Canadians, the Quebec Chamber of Commerce, although it would prefer to keep a Canadian money system, is already talking about the possibility of a separate Quebec currency. Time is running out and the Prime Minister does not have the luxury of the years and years of the three-year process of Meech. What he has is

time running out on him, with federal initiatives that show little leadership, little planning, and little understanding of how grave the situation is.

[Translation]

An hon. member: It is true!

Ms. Copps: The ideas submitted to the Bélanger-Campeau Commission are each more daring than the next. Many are asking for the Quebec people to decide the issue in a referendum held as soon as possible. This Commission is supposed to table its report at the end of March, which means that the Quebec government would then have definite recommendations available and could act quite expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will forgive me for describing in detail the process taking place in Quebec, but I did so because I wanted to compare it with the process here at the federal level.

[English]

I wanted to speak in detail, Mr. Speaker, about the Quebec process because I think we have to contrast that with the absolute lack of leadership and planning to save Canada on the part of this Prime Minister and this government.

The Spicer commission was cobbled together at the last second. The resolution about which we are speaking today was brought about as a response to an immediate political problem of the Prime Minister. Where has he been since June 23, when he knew that the constitutional clock was ticking? Where has he been? Why does the government not expand the terms of reference of this committee to make sure that it deals, not only with the important issue of the amending formula, but also the other questions that Canadians want put on the table?

It is simplistic and naive to suggest that the death of Meech was only a result of the formula of unanimity. The death of Meech was the result of a federal Prime Minister who was unwilling to speak out in the rest of Canada as eloquently and as vociferously as he spoke out in the province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, I can speak with credibility on this issue because I spoke in the same language, with the same words, in every part of the country and I can tell you that the death of Meech which started the clock ticking for Canada was a direct result of the mismanagement and the amateurish approach of the government. I fear that we are about to repeat the same process with this position.