

It is not a question of Quebec versus Canada, nor one of a deadline, but about responding with openness and honesty to legitimate and sincere differences of opinion from all parts of our country.

The Prime Minister must emerge from the First Minister's meeting with an agenda for dialogue in either official language that brings parties together towards a solution allowing all Canadians to live in mutual harmony and with respect for each other.

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### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, this year's Auditor General's report overstepped the bounds of speculative criticism by unfairly reporting on the Sugar Beet Tripartite Stabilization Program. The Auditor General bases his criticisms on the requirement of the Agricultural Stabilization Act to run programs that are financially self-sufficient.

How, in 1989, can the Auditor General be so critical of a program that only started in 1987? He concludes that the sugar beet program is not self-sustaining.

The Sugar Beet Tripartite Program is a 10-year program. Prices have fallen below predicted levels and costs of production have risen very quickly. Over the next eight years, it is not unreasonable to predict that prices will rise and the program, in fact, will sustain itself.

If the Auditor General really wants to assess the impact of federal spending, I suggest he review the impact of our foreign aid spending that increased the production of sugar cane in Caribbean countries and helped drive down the international price of sugar. The Auditor General would be much better off if he understood the magnitude of problems facing agriculture before commenting on them.

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[Translation]

### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, Canada's decision to join the Organization of American States, where it has had the status of permanent observer since 1972, will enable the Canadian Government to play a more active role on the international scene.

### S. O. 31

The Organization of American States is the oldest regional organization in the world, and its basic objectives are to promote and reinforce peace, security, solidarity and economic and social development, in addition to protecting the independence and territorial integrity of its member States, which currently number 32.

Through our membership in the OAS, we have become full-fledged citizens of the Americas. Canada, because of its strength, its history and its economic presence, will have a very important role to play in this organization.

Our membership will encourage stronger ties between OAS agencies and interested organizations in the public and private sector in this country.

Even if some heads of State are less amenable than others, the OAS promotes discussion, understanding and co-operation in areas that concern all governments.

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• (1410 )

[English]

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, on January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court ruled that Section 251 of the Criminal Code contravened the rights of women under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Canada. Following this decision, the government promised that it would enact a new law, and it attempted to produce a consensus. It failed on both counts.

The government then said it would hold off until the Supreme Court ruled on Borowski. On March 9, 1989, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that there is no longer an issue because the law was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court sent a strong signal to this House. The function of the Court is to interpret and the function of this House is to make law. The onus is on this government to introduce legislation which will fill the current void or tell Canadians they have no intention to introduce legislation at all. The Daigle and Dodd cases are unacceptable.

Many Canadians want to know when the government will act in this regard.