

*Oral Questions*

Mitterrand, the socialist President of France? Was he attacking the Government of Greece? If not, which of our elected Social Democratic Governments is working for "a one world totalitarian state"?

The smear and fear campaign of the Conservative Party is plain silly and will not work. In poll after poll, Canadians express their faith in the New Democratic Party and the integrity of our Leader. This letter, which is part of a package of deliberate lies and distortions by a desperate group of third place and sinking politicians, displays their weak suit, their own lack of credibility and believability.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—ADOPTION BY HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I will put my questions to the Deputy Prime Minister as they also relate to his capacity as Government House Leader.

The Liberal Party wants Quebec's signature on the Constitution. We want a united Canada. We believe that the spirit of the constitutional Accord deserves support and we will work hard to make it even better.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I think we are a little sensitive on this side of the House to the fact that we are being measured by an applause meter, and by who stands up. In any event, the Prime Minister was tired yesterday, justifiably so, after the accomplishment, and he unfortunately said that he expects the House of Commons to "adopt the document in its entirety".

Upon reflection, will the Deputy Prime Minister approach the Prime Minister to suggest that he should keep the spirit of constructive compromise alive and agree to allow any constructive suggestions to reach the floor of the House of Commons and a committee of Parliament, which is a position that has been publicly adopted by several of the provincial Premiers?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I know that we on this side of the House certainly welcome the comments of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Indeed, we are encouraged by his commitment and his Party's commitment to move this agreement forward in the best possible manner.

I want to remind him, however, that we have an agreement by 11 First Ministers in the Accord. It represents a resolution to the very important issues that have been addressed over the

last year. We, as the Government, are fully supportive of the Accord and will be recommending its adoption by Parliament. It will be in that spirit that we will move it ahead, and will do so in such a way that we will have a mechanism to allow full participation by all Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN PREMIERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I could quote some comments by several provincial Premiers. Take, for instance, Premier Peterson of Ontario, who clearly made a generous and major contribution to the Accord. He said he was not only in favour of improving the Accord but, indeed, open to the concept. Is the Deputy Prime Minister unable to emulate the energy, optimism and open-mindedness of the Premier of Ontario and other Premiers?

• (1420)

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, we as a Government are committed to seeing this Accord adopted by Parliament, as I am sure the Premier of Ontario is committed to seeing the provisions adopted by the provincial Legislature. As far as that goes, all the other Premiers will be doing the same thing.

This is an agreement that was quite unlike the constitutional process that we went through in 1981 and 1982. This process has been developed through consensus, consultation, a great deal of co-operation, and give and take. So we are really talking about quite a different proposal from that which was before the House the last time.

NATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly the last time a parliamentary committee held hearings which actually improved the arrangement that was originally presented to Parliament. I hope the Deputy Prime Minister will accept that as a useful precedent.

What I am concerned about is this. I want anglophones in Quebec and francophones outside Quebec to be assured that their rights are 100 per cent guaranteed. I want to assure the northern territories that their eventual process toward provincial status is not forever closed by the Accord. I want Canadians to know that parliamentary debate really means parliamentary debate.

I am asking the Deputy Prime Minister this. Give us an assurance that what the provincial Premiers said publicly, on assurances, apparently, of the Prime Minister of Canada, will be lived up to by the Government when the Accord is debated and referred to a committee of the House. That is what we are asking.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!