

not gouged by the banks and trust companies with these exorbitant and usurious interest rates?

Hon. Gilles Loisele (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, of course I think the essential element is for Canadians to have access to the best possible credit.

The hon. gentleman will realize—and I think he will agree—that this government by introducing the legislation it has introduced will create many more outlets and will give Canadians much more access to credit sources. In our view this is the best way, by competition in our market economy, to bring the rates down for customers.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. After last weekend's Liberal convention, and given the Liberal Party's new sovereigntist approach as well as the adoption of the Allaire report, is the Prime Minister now prepared to enter into bilateral constitutional negotiations with the Government of Quebec?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I simply cannot accept my friend's interpretation with respect to the political approach of the Quebec Liberal Party because, as I recall, Premier Bourassa made it quite clear on Sunday afternoon that "the Liberal Party's first choice was an ever stronger Quebec, but within a strong and united Canada". In my opinion, this was a statement—

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: My friend may have found that rather depressing! But in a speech in Toronto February 12 last I stated that—

Mr. Rocheleau: Do you accept bilateral negotiations? That is what I asked.

Mr. Mulroney: Yes, but—

Mr. Speaker: The Right Hon. the Prime Minister.

Mr. Mulroney: That is what you asked, but first you made a comment to the effect that the Liberal Party has become a sovereigntist political formation, and that is

Privilege

quite false. Mr. Bourassa said it was a federalist political formation, and that is the difference. In a spirit of friendship I simply wanted to correct one small mistake among many others. Referring to Canada's problem, I said before the Canadian Club in Toronto that divorces are expensive propositions. They are very harmful and create ill-feelings on both sides. But reconciliation does not come easy either. It calls for humility and understanding. It puts the married couple in a position where they must sit with the rest of the family to discuss their problems until they find a solution. I believe that once Canadians have considered the costs and consequences of a divorce they will choose reconciliation.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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• (1500)

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would like to designate tomorrow as an allotted day for the business of supply.

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PRIVILEGE

COMMENTS OF MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to you at the beginning of Question Period, I wish to give notice of a possible question of privilege. The minister of Indian affairs is not here today but I believe the statements he made in the House on September 25, 1990 have been contradicted by a tape that has been released by the natives in Oka earlier today.

I do not wish to raise the matter in his absence at this time but I do wish to reserve my right to raise it upon his return to the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member who gave me notice of the question. He rises on a question of privilege and it will be heard later.