

the short list. Is he telling us that that is his reasonable expectation today, that that is what he expects to come out of the September meeting?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I expect that we will have dealt with those 12 items in a final way. It is possible that we will not be able to agree on them all. If that is the case, I think we will each have to take our responsibilities as to whether there is sufficient body of agreement to consider progress satisfactory or not. I am not predicting we will all agree necessarily on everything. I am saying that we must make every effort to seek that agreement. If we do not achieve it, I indicated that I thought that would be a very considerable failure of grave consequence for Canada.

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, I do not want to pursue this matter at this stage. I simply express my hope that the Prime Minister will understand that such an agreement as was reached yesterday was reached because an atmosphere of co-operation existed involving all of the eleven governments, and indeed involving this House. If there were to be actions taken which led to false expectations and consequently to a disagreement in the meeting in September that might not otherwise occur, and to a rupture of the process, that would be something to be regretted by all members of this House.

Let me turn to one other matter, and perhaps other of my colleagues will have additional questions. During his remarks today, the Prime Minister referred to the possibility of the federal government reviewing other options. We have heard and discussed in the House the question of the option of a national referendum. Will the Prime Minister tell us, first, whether he is now considering a referendum, and whether he discussed that with the premiers? Second, what other kinds of options is he considering? Third, if it is a referendum, is it his present intention that a referendum sponsored by the federal government would deal only with questions which lay within the jurisdiction and the competence of the federal government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, on the first part of the question, I want to emphasize most strongly that those who considered September as a deadline—and I took it to be the consensus of the meeting—included several premiers who made it very clear that in their mind urgency was of the very essence of the operation. Several spoke to the point that if we did not act with great urgency we might, as early as the fall, have cause to regret it. So that is the only glossary I can add to my previous answers.

As to the second part of the question on a referendum, Madam Speaker, I cannot recollect the matter having been raised yesterday. It was not certainly by me. Therefore, the third and fourth questions as to the nature of that referendum—

**Mr. Clark:** The other options.

**An hon. Member:** You referred to options.

**Mr. Trudeau:** As for the other option, Madam Speaker—

### *Constitutional Renewal*

**An hon. Member:** "Options".

**Mr. Trudeau:**—I think the text is as general as I would care to put it this afternoon because I am optimistic at this stage that we will all act, and act rapidly, in agreement.

I indicated that I would recommend to Parliament a plan of action which would allow us to fulfil our responsibilities to the people of Canada. It was at that point that I quoted the Leader of the Opposition, who I thought shared our views on that, without tying him to that particular date. I understood his views to be that if there were a deadlock which was judged to be such at some point, Parliament would have to take its responsibilities. That is my view. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition does not care at this time to express in what way Parliament would have to take its responsibilities, but I would be happy to discuss that with him privately if he wishes.

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Madam Speaker, my questions also are directed to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I think all of us in the House want the process to succeed and that is why it is so important we all understand the process.

In terms of the deadline, there are operative words in the calendar that the Prime Minister has tabled today with regard to the meetings of September 8 to 12. The last words are "put in train a further work program." I would interpret those words of the Prime Minister, who obviously wants to have some agreement at that meeting, as indicating that other work would still be necessary after the meetings of September 8 to 12.

● (1530)

I would like to ask the Prime Minister, was there any discussion yesterday with the first ministers in terms of enlarging participation from the 11 participants of yesterday for the meetings of September 8 to 12? It has been mentioned in this House and in other circles as well, in terms of constitution-making, that consideration should be given to enlarging that group. Was that discussed? What was the conclusion in terms of participation of other members, and specifically that of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), at subsequent meetings?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, on the first part of the question concerning the other work to be brought in after the September meeting, the answer is, of course, that the list which we agreed on does not cover all the matters to which the provinces and the Government of Canada attached importance. We chose a list which was largely produced by a meeting in February, 1979, of first ministers and subsequently modified by the continuing committee of ministers on the constitution when the Leader of the Opposition was prime minister.

The basis of the list I put to the first ministers yesterday was indeed a list which, subject to correction, we inherited more or less from the continuing committee of ministers on the constitution under the Clark government, but we went through that