

Mr. Saltsman: As I indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of confusion in the sense that people do not know what orders to place and manufacturers do not know what orders to anticipate. Can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House how long he intends to go through this period of negotiation before coming to some final conclusion about the three year restriction and allocation of imports?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the hon. member that I am quite surprised to hear him speak of confusion, for these decisions were taken following the establishment of a joint committee made up of the industry, the unions and the provinces concerned, and all parties were in favour of our following this policy. I feel the sources of the hon. member should seek additional information from their respective organizations, for the policy we have developed in this area was approved by all parties involved.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC ON RENEWED FEDERALISM

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations.

Following an opinion poll made public yesterday evening by the CBC French network, 70 per cent of Quebecers which were questioned opted for a renewed federalism, but the PQ government got 35 per cent of the votes, more than all the opposition parties in Quebec put together. I would like to ask the minister whether he intends to meet his Quebec counterpart, Mr. Morin, in a near future in order to discuss this matter of renewed federalism?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Mr. Speaker, the government indicated clearly in the Speech from the Throne, that they were in favour of a new federalism in the Canadian system and that specific proposals would be put before the House during the present session which would include some amendments to the Canadian constitution.

As for the negotiation with the provinces and particularly with Quebec ministers, I shall remind the hon. member that the Prime Minister is now touring different provinces in Canada, that he has already met several premiers and that he intends to meet the Quebec premier in a few weeks on this subject, just as he met the other premiers. I can tell the hon. member that we are regularly in communication with the departments and the ministers of Quebec who are responsible for different sectors. If following the meeting between the Quebec premier and the Prime Minister it is necessary to pursue discussions at the ministerial level, of course I shall be pleased to be at the service of Quebec ministers to pursue these discussions.

Oral Questions

INQUIRY IF MINISTER WILL MEET HIS COUNTERPART FROM QUEBEC

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell the House whether he has already met the Quebec minister, Mr. Morin, to discuss a new formula of renewed federalism? Since the present discussions between the right hon. Prime Minister and the provincial premiers seem to be—according to the press for I do not follow these discussions—confronting discussions, particularly on the Quebec side, could the minister tell the House whether he has already met or intends to meet Mr. Morin to launch this renewed federalism which everybody is expecting?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Mr. Speaker, the attitude or the option of this government is by no means one of confrontation and I do not quite understand how the hon. member can talk of an attitude of confrontation when we have yet to meet the premier of Quebec. However, I must remind the hon. member that it is very difficult to enter into negotiations with a government whose aim is to split this country into two parts and which has very clearly stated that its target was the separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada. As for us, this is a non-negotiable option. We are prepared to negotiate a new federalism with Quebec, with substantial changes. But it must be quite clear from the start that what we are talking about is a new federalism and not the creation of two different countries with some kind of economic association.

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● (1427)

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF FILE ON OPERATION "FEATHERBED"—POSSIBLE MAINTENANCE OF FILES ON PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it is in regard to the so-called "Featherbed" file in possession of the security services of this country. I am informed it is far more extensive than I was able to indicate to the House yesterday. Will the minister confirm with a "yes" or "no" answer whether or not there has been in existence or still exists a file with the code name "featherbed" which is in any way in the hands of the security services of Canada.

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cossitt: I would like to ask the minister this supplementary: Is he prepared now to outline to the House the general nature of the subjects dealt with in this file?

Mr. Fox: It is a security service file dealing with extremely sensitive matters. It is not my intention to open up all the files of the security services, no matter what the code names might be. I have had the opportunity to review the operation "Fea-