

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is, certainly by his supplemental, moving into a debate which is taking place between some Christians of the Roman Catholic faith. I really think that it goes beyond something that the right hon. Secretary of State, despite his allegiance, is in a position act upon.

I am going to move on.

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[*Translation*]

**QUEBEC'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. During Question Period, we heard the Prime Minister claim that it was up to Canada to decide, that it was a prerogative of the House of Commons, that it was up to the Government of Canada to set its own timeframe, and this on the very day the Bélanger-Campeau Commission and leaders of Quebec society chose their timeframe and the path they will follow. Is the Prime Minister telling Quebecers that he wants to deprive them of their right to self-determination, that he does not acknowledge the supremacy of the National Assembly with respect to the issue of Quebec's nationhood? Is the Prime Minister telling Quebecers he wants to try to confuse the issue and thus prevent them from making a clear, logical and unambiguous decision?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Not so, Mr. Speaker. Quebecers are expressing their views, and I am referring to those who took part in the Bélanger-Campeau Commission. If I am not mistaken, there will be further comments this afternoon. We intend to read this report very carefully because it constitutes a major position for the Quebec National Assembly and, I assume, for the Government of Quebec. However, I noticed that in his comments as Premier of Quebec, Mr. Bourassa said he was committed to carrying out all his responsibilities, regardless of commissions of inquiry. In other words, he is not yielding his moral or political authority to anyone.

That being said, I consider the Bélanger-Campeau report as a major contribution by Quebec to the national debate. The government and the federal Parliament intend to take an active part in this debate. And I am

sure the hon. member will not be offended if, as the Prime Minister of Canada, and as Canadian parliamentarians, we ensure that the prerogatives of a sovereign Parliament are also respected.

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, the fundamental question I asked the Prime Minister of Canada is this: Does he recognize, in law and in reality, the right of Quebec to be the master of its destiny? Does he recognize the right of Quebec to self-determination and that of the National Assembly to hold a referendum in 1992 to decide of Quebec's own future without any interference from the government of Canada?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raised this question before. The answer is in the record.

**An hon. member:** Answer!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, many things are going to happen, but I will not put up with being harassed by the Bloc Québécois while I am answering an important question on behalf of all Canadians. You can count on that!

As I said,—

**An hon. member:** Just wait until the next elections!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will be waiting for you resolutely. Let us see how you fare in Quebec!

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Come to Quebec and you will see that, if they have to choose between the builders of Canada and the demolishers from the Bloc Québécois, Quebecers and Canadians alike will go for those who will build a great big country.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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[*English*]

**WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT**

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds.

The same minister in 1985 caused the Western Grain Stabilization Act to be amended to provide for the possibility of interim spring payments.