

*Government Orders*

[English]

Amendments to key areas of the Constitution, including the distribution of powers and matters excepted from the exclusive power of Parliament, would have been made with the consent of Parliament and the consent of the legislatures of two Atlantic provinces, of Quebec, of Ontario and of two western provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population of the western provinces.

Amendments applying to one or more, but not all, of the provinces could be made with the consent of Parliament and the legislatures involved.

Amendments to the Constitution would have taken the form of a proclamation of the Governor General rather than an act of Parliament.

Finally, provision was made for Parliament and the legislatures each to exercise certain exclusive powers of amendment.

The Victoria formula abandoned the full rigidity of the specially-protected elements of the Fulton-Favreau formula and introduced the notion of regional protection.

In the end, of course,—

[Translation]

**Mr. Plamondon:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Richelieu on a point of order.

**Mr. Plamondon:** If this government thinks that the appointment of this committee is so important, how come we do not have a quorum, Mr. Speaker?

*And the count having been taken:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I see a quorum. I might add that the Chair and not the hon. member should check and decide whether we have a quorum. Debate. The hon. Minister of Justice has the floor.

**Mr. Plamondon:** Mr. Speaker, I am very surprised to hear you say that only the Chair can call a quorum. As far as I know, any member can do it.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** You stated earlier that there was no quorum. However, what you just said is closer to what is considered proper in our Standing Orders. The hon. minister of Justice has the floor.

[English]

**Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the Victoria formula abandoned the full rigidity of the specially protected elements of the Fulton-Favreau formula and introduced the notion of regional protection.

In the end, of course, neither formula was adopted and it was not until 1982 that a made-in-Canada amending formula was finally placed in the Constitution as part of the 1982 Constitution Act.

[Translation]

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the 1982 Act was imperfect because Quebec was excluded from the agreement. The consequences of this exclusion are now history. We are still trying to find an appropriate amending procedure, that is a procedure with a reasonable degree of stability and flexibility.

This procedure should allow the people to participate and particularly allow Canadians to reach their constitutional goals.

[English]

As the Prime Minister said in his November 3 speech in Mont Ste-Anne:

If it takes major changes to hold this country together, Canada wants these changes made—(and) if it takes a new process to achieve these changes, Canadians want a new process designed.

Canadians want to be able to achieve their constitutional aspirations. They do not want to have their dreams for this country blocked by an inadequate and inflexible procedure.

Hon. members, parliamentarians, play an important role in the constitutional process. If the process is not working, it is important that we consult with Canadians to find better ways of attaining our constitutional objectives.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to support this motion in order to give Canada the Constitution its needs now that we are getting close to the twenty-first century.

[English]

I would just conclude by saying that in the current amending formula, the Parliament of Canada has a crucial role to play in implementing constitutional