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1 and I don't think direct intervention of the Federal
2 Government would be very helpful. In fact, it might be
3 counter-productive!

4 MR. FEICHTLBAUER: It is customary in the
5 National Press Club to close with a funny question.

6 I am not going to adopt this custom, and I am
7 not going to ask a funny question. But I am going to ask
8 a question which it may be funny to expect you to answer it.

9 When will the Federal Government call for
10 National Elections?

11 MINISTER LALONDE: I will answer you very
12 seriously. I will give you the ultimate date, which
13 is July 8, 1979 -- that is the ultimate date.

14 MR. FEICHTLBAUER: Could it be any time before
15 that?

16 MINISTER LALONDE: It could be any time before
17 that.

18 MR. FEICHTLBAUER: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister,
19 for being with us.

20 Thank you very much for coming.

21 Thank you for your candid and frank answers.

22 [Applause]

23 [Whereupon, at approximately 3:30 p.m. the
24 Press Briefing was concluded.]