

Commons and the Senate adopt it as is because we believe that it is in the interest not only of Quebec but of Canada as a whole. That being said, I have already expressed our views with respect to the kind of parliamentary commission which might be appointed. We will see in due time what might come out of it.

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, given his position I find it normal that the Prime Minister would introduce the resolution before the House with the objective or at least the intention of having it adopted without amendments. Still I want to get back to the possibility of amendments. Although he was pleased, Manitoba Premier Pawley did say the accord is not perfect. Right after the conference, the Prime Minister of Canada himself indicated how satisfied he was to have reached this agreement, yet he admitted it is not perfect. So, without asking the Government to commit itself with respect to amendments it is not yet aware of, we would seek the assurance that at least the Government is open to the suggestion that amendments might be proposed and adopted.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it has been acknowledged by both sides that although the document is not perfect it does constitute a homogeneous entity, the result of the sustained and dedicated work of a great many people over several months now: is it not? So in these circumstances I am prepared to recommend it in full, as the other First Ministers are committed to do before their own legislative assemblies. Now then, I have already indicated that the leaders of the Government and of the Opposition will hold discussions on a parliamentary commission or instrument, and we will see what comes out of it. The Hon. Member indicates that he has no amendment to propose, that is normal today, we will see in due course.

* * *

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S APPLICATION FOR COURT INJUNCTION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. While very important talks were going on during the last number of hours with regard to improvements to Canada's Constitution, legal experts in British Columbia were saying that the Government of British Columbia has taken action which violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in our Constitution by requesting an injunction which, among other things, would prohibit citizens from pointing out errors in the government of the province, prohibit the circulation of written material advocating study sessions for employees, and much, much

Oral Questions

more. Is the Minister aware of this unprecedented initiative taken by the Province of British Columbia?

• (1440)

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, obviously my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Jelinek: Ask a question and you will get an answer.

Mr. Riis: Since the Minister is aware of this obvious violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Riis:—being aware of this, what actions has he taken? Has he made representations to his counterpart in the Government of British Columbia? If not, when does he plan to make those representations?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the legal action taken in British Columbia and I think I should let the courts make their own ruling.

* * *

[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, for over nine months now Members of Parliament have been trying to find out what the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is all about. The Government has made some vague and nebulous statements that: "It will address problems of regional disparity and co-ordinate federal efforts in Atlantic Canada". The only federal efforts we know about in Atlantic Canada have been cuts ever since this Government took power.

I ask the Prime Minister why the Government has been so secretive about this program?

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Baker: Why has it refused to give any information at all about this program even to businessmen who require a year or two's advance notice in order to plan? Does the Government believe in the premise that anticipation is greater than realization? It has been over nine months since it was conceived. Isn't it about time you delivered?