

*Oral Questions*

province, indeed in the history of Canada, and in the struggle for trade union and democratic freedoms in our society.

As former B.C. Deputy Labour Minister, Graham Leslie, has pointed out, the Vander Zalm Government has reintroduced unacceptable confrontation and conflict to industrial relations in B.C. Furthermore, Bill 19 clearly contravenes ILO Convention 87 dealing with freedom of association and the right to organize. Canada is a signatory to this Convention which among other things guarantees workers and employers the right to draw up their own constitutions and rules. It also prohibits public authorities from impeding the exercise of that right and seeks to prevent Governments from interfering with already negotiated settlements.

• (1415)

The Government of B.C. clearly has no intention of working within labour-management norms that conform to accepted standards of a modern democratic state. Hence this day of protest.

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**CANADIAN RED CROSS**

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC—PARTICIPATION BY HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to take this opportunity to make a non-partisan announcement.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Well, I'm going to listen.

**Mr. Lewis:** Great, I want you to do so.

Three or four times a year the House of Commons participates in blood donor clinics. Today and tomorrow, the blood donor clinic is taking place in Room 200, West Block. I would encourage all of my colleagues in the House, staff, and even the media to attend to give blood. At the same time, I would encourage Canadians all across the country to do the same. This gift means so very much to the recipient and at the same time gives the donor the opportunity to extend life.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**THE CONSTITUTION**

MEECH LAKE ACCORD—REQUEST THAT PARLIAMENT SEE FINAL TEXT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister may I put a question or two to the Deputy Prime Minister and Government

House Leader? My question revolves around the constitutional process.

On May 1 and May 11 I said in the House of Commons that Parliament had the right to see the final text of the proposed constitutional amendment before it was again negotiated with the Premiers. Will Parliament be allowed to see that final text before it is signed by the Premiers of the provinces?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, the Prime Minister indicated on May 1 and again on May 11 that every opportunity would be made available to Members of the House to participate in this very important issue. As he knows, the First Ministers are meeting tomorrow. We are not sure whether an agreement will be ratified but we are all hopeful that that will be the case. If such is the case, then I would be prepared to sit down with the House Leaders opposite to work out a satisfactory arrangement for Parliament to consider this issue, and I would do so at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Translation]

DEMAND FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I bet the Deputy Prime Minister's answer will indicate that Parliament will have the right to see and examine the text after rather than before it is signed by the First Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been in favour of the Meech Lake agreement as a basis to bring Quebec back into the constitutional fold, and I still am. The Constitution is the basic statute of Canada. It governs the implementation of all our legislation and our institutions.

I want the Deputy Prime Minister to explain to us how he intends to allow us to make improvements to the agreement? Will there be exhaustive public parliamentary hearings here in Ottawa and across the country to enable Canadians to voice their opinions on the legal text? Will the constitutional resolution undergo at least the same legislative process as an ordinary bill?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, those questions and issues that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition quite rightly raises would be part of the considerations that I would hope to discuss with the Opposition House Leaders.

As the Prime Minister indicated, he made the commitment to all Hon. Members of the House to become as actively involved as possible to provide the moral leadership to the country and for other Governments. It would be in that spirit and in that context that we would attempt to establish the kind of process that would allow that to proceed in the interests not only of examining all elements of the Accord but of engaging