time when there have been more government members speak than members of the official opposition, is that the Liberal party with its pollsters—and it is a government not of principles but of pollsters—found out that public opinion is changing. It is changing because people are finding out what is at issue here.

They understand that the propaganda put out by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism is false. What is at issue here is not simple patriation. If patriation were the question, the Liberal party would have voted for patriation yesterday instead of against it. The people of Canada are becoming more aware with each day's debate of some of the issues. My colleague from Rosedale dramatically indicated the other day some of the problems for individuals, native people, women, other individuals and groups in the country that might be affected by affirmative action, a wide range of Canadians whose interests are directly threatened by this piece of legislation.

It is no wonder that the government do not want the matter debated in public. They are ashamed and they do not want people to know what they are proposing, so they try to hide it. That is why we have closure here. We believe that instead of having closure and limiting this debate, there should be an opportunity for the people of Canada to know what is going on. This is why there should not be artificial limitation put upon the time of that committee to sit, why there should be an opportunity for television and radio to be present, and why there should be an opportunity for the committee to travel across the country.

Let the committee go to Newfoundland and see how badly the people there are being served by the Liberal members from that province, who trust their citizens so little that they do not want them to know what the Government of Canada is proposing. Let them go to western Canada and across this country. Let them go into Quebec and ask the people there directly whether or not they believe this proposal serves the interests of federalism or the interests of separatism. We have one response to that question. The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Duclos) is quoted in the October 23 issue of the Toronto *Star*. In the news article he indicates why he opposes the proposal put forth by his government. He said:

> I want English Canada to know this commitment . . . is not what we promised Quebeckers during the referendum.
>
> According to the public opinion polls, a majority of Quebeckers want a substantive change—not just a cosmetic change to our federal system.
>
> What we're doing now is an indication that the federal government is not really interested in a profound reform of our federal system.
>
> I think that what we are doing now . . . we're in the process of giving the Parti Québecois another term of office.

Those are the words of the Liberal member of Parliament for Montmorency who had the courage to stand in his place and speak what he believes, rather than accepting the muzzle of his leader. Where, I wonder, are the other Liberal members of Parliament? What kind of sheep are they that they sit in fear of their leader, rather than speaking to the interests of their constituents and their provinces?

*The Constitution*

Yesterday in Quebec City the Prime Minister, while his minister was acting to stop debate in Parliament, again accused provincial premiers who oppose his resolution of siding with René Lévesque.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are pointing at your watch, and I believe that I have about two minutes left.

The Prime Minister's argument is that if you are not with him then you are against Canada. That is a familiar argument of the Prime Minister, although it is a little bit more difficult to make now that he wants Britain to decide questions which most of us want Canada to decide. But his prophecy is true. Mr. Lévesque embraced separatism in Quebec partly in reaction to the rigid, stubborn attitude of this government, and now other individuals in other parts of Canada are being driven by the Liberal government toward separation.

The Liberal government which presided over the growth of separatism in Quebec is creating the conditions for separatism in western Canada. I would draw to the attention of hon. members a speech made last night in the other place by a former premier and a dedicated federalist, Senator Ernest Manning, who said:

> I am deeply troubled by the large number of serious-minded responsible people in western Canada who a year ago would have rejected the idea of separation out of hand, but who are now joining or supporting organizations advocating that the west separate. Such organizations are attracting members and fringe supporters not by hundreds but by thousands. It would be a grave mistake for the federal government to ignore the potential danger to Canada inherent in such trends.

● (1820)

I implore members of this House of Commons not to ignore the attitudes that are growing in western Canada and elsewhere in the country, and not to ignore the seeds of disunity that this government has sown. I urge the government, if they must resort to this unforgivable mechanism of closure, if they must muzzle Parliament, at least to let the committee of Parliament do its work. Let it have time to study. Let it carry through, as the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte suggested, until February 12. Let the television cameras and radio be present so that people will know what is being discussed. Let Claude Ryan and others come to that committee and let them speak freely and fully about the damage this measure will do to their part of Canada. Let the committee do its work. Do not muzzle the committee as the House of Commons has been muzzled.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, we are now considering an amendment to the main motion, an amendment aimed at delaying till February next the report of the joint committee of the House and the Senate dealing with the resolution on the Canadian constitution.

Before I deal with the matter, I know quite well that hon. members will guess that the subject which I will try to develop is very clear to me but before dealing with it, I would like to