

When this happens, do you think the anglophones from Halifax, Winnipeg, Ottawa or Moncton will let us be bilingual, will let us use the French language? And then my dear colleagues, for several years now especially since I have been in the Senate, during the long discussions on the Meech Lake Accord—and Senator David mentioned this afternoon—I heard it but I had work to do in my office . . .

The Hon. the Speaker: Honorable senators, pursuant to rule 13(1), as you all know, I must leave the chair at six p.m. If the senators wish to ignore the clock . . .

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honorable senators, we have no objection that Senator Thériault concludes his remarks even if it means that we should perhaps agree to adjourn until to-morrow at two p.m. because otherwise in accordance with Standing Orders we would have us to come back at eight p.m. to-night to close the debate.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honorable senators?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Thériault: Thank you, honourable senators, I did not want to take too long, but I lost my train of thought. I will conclude by saying that I was at Meech Lake and reporting what senator David for whom I have so much respect said about the Accord and the position of certain Canadians during these talks. I would like to remind my friends on this side—and it might not be necessary—that I was one of the few Liberal senators to openly support the Meech Lake Accord. I

did so because as a francophone I thought, and still do, that it was terribly important for Quebec to remain within Canada. But since Meech, when I hear and when I read what is written and said in Quebec by some and I am still convinced that they do not represent the majority, it is increasingly difficult for me as a francophone outside Quebec to support Quebec's current position.

I wonder if, deep down, those who opposed the Meech Lake Accord were not right since we can now see that the same thing is happening again, namely that those who speak or pretend to speak for Quebec are rejecting the Francophones outside Quebec. As Senator David said, thanks for your sympathy, but we have had it with your sympathy. What we, Francophones outside Quebec, want are our rights. One would tend to believe that we would have the support of our fellow Quebecers. But each time they have the opportunity to do so, we see the opposite. As Senator Gigantès said, if you really want this country to stay united, you can prove it to the Canadian people by supporting the motion or amendment introduced by my colleague, the Senator Corbin. Thank you for your time.

Senator Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honorable Senators, I move that the debate be adjourned.

On motion of Senator Molgat, debate is adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Wednesday, March 18 1992, at 2 p.m.