

[Translation]

### THE CITIZENS' FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF CANADA

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday, in this House, the Acting Prime Minister said that no more people could be added to the membership of the Citizens' Forum on the Future of Canada, chaired by Mr. Keith Spicer. There will be no room for francophones, for people north of the 60th Parallel, and for a wide spectrum of ethnic communities. Yesterday, before the National Convention of Italian Canadians in Toronto, the Prime Minister was saying and I quote: "That there was room for additional appointments".

Mr. Speaker, the question that arises today is this: Whom are we to believe? The Prime Minister, who says anything, anytime, to woo Canadians, or the former Secretary of State, who told us Friday that there was no room for additional people on that commission?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think that all members of the House would agree that the panel that forms the membership of this very important instrument is made up of very distinguished Canadians who represent all walks of life and, I think, represent a very good cross section.

What is important to recognize is that these individuals are not intended to act as representatives for any one specific group or another. They are part of a group which will facilitate and encourage dialogue and discussion so that a consensus can emerge.

What is most important is the facility to allow all Canadians, regardless of where they come from, regardless of who they are, regardless of what walk of life they are engaged in, and regardless of what ethnic composition they come from, to have a clear opportunity to come forth before this panel, represent their views, engage in the dialogue and allow themselves to be heard so that all Canadians can take advantage of it.

### Oral Questions

• (1500)

I think that is the most important feature, and I regret that the hon. member has lost the thrust of this whole function.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister has lost the question. It is a simple one.

Are there going to be additions? Yes or no.

No answer.

During a radio interview this weekend, Keith Spicer, the new chairman of the Citizen's Forum, said: "We will create a receptive climate in English Canada for the Quebec Bélanger-Campeau commission's recommendations, especially if they are radical".

My question: Who gave chairman Spicer the new mandate to create a receptive climate in English Canada for the Bélanger-Campeau commission's recommendations if they are radical, and do tell what this mandate means? Please do tell.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the mandate is pretty clear. I have it in my hand. It was tabled in the House of Commons last Thursday, and I ask the hon. member to re-read it.

Perhaps he will get an idea of what the mandate is all about. When he is suggesting that there should be additional members, how many members is he proposing? Does he want to expand it to 24, 50 or 100?

**Mr. Speaker:** I must remind the House that it being three o'clock, we need the consent of the House to continue Question Period.

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we started Question Period late today because of the intervening vote.

Usually, with these kinds of things we work them out in discussions with the opposition in advance.