

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Yes or no?

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I regret that the Prime Minister missed my first answer. We cannot accept a proposal which would have the House of Commons voting on matters which the Supreme Court of Newfoundland has declared to be beyond the competence of this Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blais: It's not so!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Do I understand the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking for the floor again?

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I am asking for the floor simply because in these exchanges between the Leader of the New Democratic Party and the Prime Minister we have yet to receive an answer from the Prime Minister to the question I put to him in respect to the proposal, the elements of which I have outlined today. I would like to have that response from him.

Some hon. Members: Yes or no?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, to look at things in order, I suppose that the Leader of the Opposition would require not only agreement from myself but agreement from the New Democratic Party.

Some hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Andre: He is in bed with you. He will do whatever you want.

Mr. Trudeau: I am asked why, Madam Speaker. Because if the New Democratic Party are not part of the deal, they can, if they wish, and if they are as destructive as the Tories, hold up the work of this House for weeks, just as the Tory party is.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Trudeau: That is why we are looking for a compromise that everyone can agree to.

The Leader of the Opposition wants a yes or no answer. It would depend on what happened after the Supreme Court decided. The Leader of the Opposition has not dealt with that. Once the Supreme Court decides and if the decision is that the matter is legal, would he then agree to pass in the House the whole package within, say, 48 hours?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: No!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I take it that is the only question in the Prime Minister's mind in relation to our package. Is that correct?

Some hon. Members: Answer the question! Yes or no?

Point of Order—Mr. Epp

Mr. Clark: Could I have an indication from the Prime Minister whether that is the only reservation, the only question he has in relation to the proposition—the time element after the matter comes back from the Supreme Court?

An hon. Member: Up, Pierre!

Some hon. Members: Up, up!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I want to point out to the House that the Chair is rather uneasy since these are the kind of negotiations that do not usually take place in the presence of the Chair. These are the kind of matters that are not usually conducted in open debate. I have tolerated it for a while in the hope that, perhaps, something speedy could be accomplished. It might be wiser to continue the negotiations in another place, but the House may do as it wishes.

Mr. Epp: I have a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Provencher on a point of order.

MR. EPP—DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION ON CONSTITUTION
ADDRESSED TO MR. ROBERTS

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, my point of order arises out of the question period today. You will recall that I asked a question of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) regarding the Constitution. Your Honour ruled that I was not in a position to ask that question of the Minister of the Environment in view of the fact that the Constitution does not fall within his area of ministerial responsibility.

Some hon. Members: Not again!

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, I direct the attention of the House to page 6224 of *Hansard* for January 15, 1981.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Epp: Could I have order, please?

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Might we have some quiet in the House, please?

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, I refer you to page 6224 of *Hansard* for January 15, 1981. On that day the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) used the following words in his question:

This matter has been discussed between the prime ministers in June. Could the Minister of the Environment in his capacity as envoy on constitutional matters inform the House?

The Minister of the Environment then proceeded to answer the question, which was strictly on constitutional matters as they related to his duties, as given to him by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and to his contacts in Great Britain.

My question today was exactly on that point, on the Constitution and the contacts the minister, as the envoy of the Prime Minister, had in Britain regarding the possible conversation