

House should recognize the depth of his commitment to his goals, and the skill and the passion that he exercised in pursuit of them. All of the members of this House desire that the Constitution of Canada be brought home with an amending formula.

The Prime Minister introduced the resolution that brought us this far and brought a flexibility to make that initiative acceptable to most of the other partners in confederation. I want to congratulate the Prime Minister both for his determination that we have always known him to have, and for the flexibility, which I have to confess we were surprised to find, and the flexibility, I should say, we hope will continue.

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

As for the Conservative Party, even though the Prime Minister introduced this resolution to the House, we kept it here and allowed the Canadian system of Parliament, the Canadian system of the courts and the Canadian system of a first ministers' conference to improve significantly the document with which we began.

As the country knows, the Prime Minister and I have different views of our country. History will judge whether this resolution better reflects his view or mine. Those are questions that will be determined later.

The question for today is whether the combination of determination and compromise which brought us this far can be extended to allow us to continue to progress in this phase of the Constitution debate. While it is true we have made progress, it is also true there is much more to do and it is particularly true that the Parliament of Canada has the duty to improve this resolution.

[*Translation*]

While offering my congratulations, Madam Speaker, I would like to say some words in praise of the Premiers of the English-speaking provinces.

[*Editor's Note: And the Prime Minister having entered the Chamber.*]

Sir, you have just missed the only words of encouragement and approval I shall probably ever address to you in my career—

**Mr. Trudeau:** You can always repeat them!

**Mr. Clark:** No, never! Opportunity only knocks once! But I would like to say some words in praise of the premiers of the English-speaking provinces who voluntarily exercised their own freedom of decision in a truly Canadian spirit by recognizing minority language educational rights in their provinces. Naturally, we shall have to wait and see how this commitment is put into practice, and it will be interesting to see how generously the provincial governments will interpret the words "where the number so warrants". The premiers of the nine provinces where French is the minority language have agreed to this extremely important principle. As a Canadian who has

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been fortunate enough to be exposed to both languages, I wish to congratulate the premiers on their foresight.

● (1410)

[*English*]

At this stage of the debate of the resolution, there are three specific amendments which my party proposes to introduce. There may be more later after further consideration of the implications of the resolution and consideration of proposals which may come, for example, from spokesmen of the people of Quebec. It is not our intention to extend the debate unduly, but it is our hope that everyone in the House will work constructively to bring the country together.

Our first amendment, which I will move later today, will reinstate, without qualification, the guarantee in Section 28 of the equality of male and female persons.

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

**Mr. Clark:** The House will not be surprised that my amendment in this case will be introduced by my good friend and colleague, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). The present resolution will allow Parliament or a legislature to treat women as less equal than men, or men as less equal than women. We intend that the rights and freedoms set forth in all the provisions of the resolution will be guaranteed equally to male and female persons. I will elaborate on our reasons later.

The second amendment we propose would restore in the resolution the guarantees of aboriginal title which had been affirmed by Parliament, either in the language contained in Section 34 of the first resolution or in very similar language. Again I will elaborate on our reasons later, but I say to my friends in the New Democratic Party that before I came down to the House for question period this morning I received some encouragement to make a telephone call. I have made that telephone call, and I am given to understand that there may be communication between the premier of a province and the Prime Minister of Canada regarding some movement which might be made on that matter later in the day.

The third amendment would restore to the resolution the precise language accepted by Quebec and seven other provinces in the agreement signed in April known as the April Accord respecting compensation for provinces that opt out of constitutional changes which deprive them of rights those provinces have traditionally enjoyed.

[*Translation*]

We have been considering the resolution in detail since we received it this Wednesday, and three comments are in order. First of all, we would like to pursue our in-depth study. We would like to bear the opinions of, and consult with, people whose interests are not adequately represented in the resolution, and we want to make specific amendments to improve the resolution where possible. My second comment is that today, we are not dealing exclusively with the agreement signed by the ten first ministers on November 5, since the resolution goes