

1 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Would you anticipate  
2 that the P.Q. would call for a boycott of any attempt  
3 by the Federal government to have a preemptive referendum  
4 with a question of its own phrasing?  
5

6 MINISTER LALONDE: They might! They might,  
7 although they have recognized -- Levesque has recognized --  
8 the right of the Federal government to call a referendum.  
9 But boycotts have not been very, very successful. They  
10 have tried that at Federal elections, and it did not work.  
11 Somehow, people still like to go and put their little  
12 cross somewhere. I don't know how much success it would  
13 have.

14 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Mr. Minister, reliable  
15 sources say that there ought to be a Federal election,  
16 probably in the Spring or in early Summer. I am entirely  
17 serious. Could you speculate on how a defeat of the  
18 Federal Liberal Party might affect the evolutionary process  
19 that we have talked about in Quebec?

20 MINISTER LALONDE: I don't speculate on defeat  
21 of my own Government! I am fighting for the victory of  
22 my own Party -- my own Government -- so I would not  
23 speculate on that.

24 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: I am not quite clear as  
25 to what your Government's attitude might be about your own  
referendum.