

Quebecers know Canada. It is their country. They have always had their place here. They know that Canada can be improved to better meet their aspirations and they will prove it by voting no on October 30.

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#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, one of the key arguments used by the separatist spokespersons in justifying their plan to separate Quebec is the issue of protection and survival of the French language.

It is claimed that French is in danger in Quebec and the only way to ensure its future is to break Canada apart this coming October 30.

How can the separatists make such an exaggeration concerning the French language, when they are preparing in their project of separation to condemn more than a million francophones outside Quebec to isolation?

In Canada, the French language knows no borders, no colour, no race. This coming October 30, Quebecers will say no to the abandonment of their millions of francophone neighbours, and a strong Quebec will remain within a Canada which, too, will be strong and united.

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#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the following is a comment that was made in May 1990 on the Prime Minister of Canada's position with respect to Quebec. It was said that "For a year he has made political hay at the expense of Quebecers by telling English Canada that there would be no problem in Quebec if the Meech Lake Accord failed".

And who was the author of this commentary? A sovereignist? Not in the least. It was the present Minister of Finance who was denouncing the intransigence of the Prime Minister of Canada with regard to the demands of Quebec.

It is all very well for the Prime Minister of Canada to try to rewrite history, casting himself in the role of Captain Quebec, but Quebecers remember that the person who was pulling the strings to make Meech fail in its attempt to meet the minimal demands of Quebec to reintegrate the Canadian Constitution was none other than the "little guy from Shawinigan".

If we vote no, we are again placing the fate of Quebec in the hands of the man who, to again quote his Minister of Finance, "went off to Ottawa to put Quebec in its place".

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#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, is Quebec a distinct society, or is it not?

We reformers believe it is, but we also believe that the other provinces have some distinguishing elements as well.

In our opinion, all provinces should have the same status within Confederation, just as all Canadians should be equal in the eyes of the law.

We have therefore reached the conclusion that it is possible to ensure equality and the recognition of languages and cultures. All that this would require would be to give the provinces primary responsibility for language and culture.

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#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mrs. Pierrette Ringuette—Maltais (Madawaska—Victoria, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the contempt with which the Bloc member from Rimouski—Témiscouata referred to francophones outside Quebec is absolutely unacceptable. It illustrates the kind of threat the separatist platform represents for francophones in other provinces.

Canada's francophones now know perfectly well that a separate Quebec would have no interest in introducing measures to promote the French fact in Canada.

Quebecers, however, are very sensitive to the issue of protecting the French language. They will not let the separation of Quebec threaten the future of more than one million francophone compatriots.

On October 30, they will vote no, because they do not want the French language to disappear in Canada. We will not let the separatist magician make us disappear with a wave of his magic wand.

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#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, francophones outside Quebec continued throughout the weekend to react to the intolerable comments made by the Bloc member from Rimouski—Témiscouata.

We all remember that last week, the Bloc member said in the House, and I quote: "According to Statistics Canada, there are one million francophones outside Quebec, but just 640,000 speak French. They have been assimilated—the francophones—poof!" she said, making fun of us francophones outside Quebec.

Director General Georges Arès of the Association canadienne française de l'Alberta said, and I quote: "The future of francophones in Alberta is more promising than ever before". Mr. Arès was referring, for instance, to a commitment by Premier Ralph Klein regarding school governance by Franco-Albertans.