

open and genuine way. It has to be as democratic as possible.

We must put everything on the table. The round must not be a round that is dictated by one province or one group or two provinces or two groups or by the federal government. It must be the Canadian round where people can come and say: "Look, these are the problems we have in Newfoundland" or "These are the problems that aboriginal people have", or the people of Quebec, of Saskatchewan or of Manitoba. It must be on the table. If everybody puts their agendas on the table and we debate those agendas, I am optimistic in the long run that we can find the accommodation and keep this country together.

The last point we mention in our motion today is that the only precondition that we lay down at this stage—and I hope members of the House all agree with this, a few may not—is the desire to remain within a renewed Canadian federation.

[*Translation*]

Mr Speaker, we need a new federation in our country, because the old one did not work any better for the people of Quebec than for other Canadians. I have in mind the aboriginal, many people in western Canada, many minorities in our country. That is why we need a new federation. But there must be a federation. I know the people of Quebec have difficulties with our federation, but Canada has been a good country for Quebecers for a long time. The French language has been well protected, better than it would have been in a separate country. I mean Quebec. I know there are a lot of problems in the province of Manitoba, and our party supported the rights of minorities, the language rights of the French-speaking people outside Quebec.

One thing is certain, Mr. Speaker. If Quebec decides to leave the country, the problems of francophones outside Quebec will be even more serious than they are now because those Francophones represent only a small minority in the country, about 5 or 6 per cent of the whole Canadian population.

[*English*]

We need a renewed federation. We have to look at the division of powers. We will have to modernize the division of powers. People should put their ideas on the

Supply

table. My friend from Chambly has gone to the Bélanger-Campeau Commission and put his ideas on the table. Many of those ideas are extremely valid in trying to modernize the division of powers in this country; some may be debatable. At least he has put those ideas on the table. He is talking about some more powers in certain circumstances, like the environment, going to the federal government, and some provincial powers perhaps going to the provinces.

There are other ways of looking at it as well. Perhaps in this country instead of a radical decentralization of power to the provinces, we can look at a decentralization in the delivery of certain programs, in the administration of certain programs, so that we maintain national objectives and national standards. This is so important, in particular for poorer provinces like the Atlantic provinces and Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In the meantime, we can still have more localized administration of those programs and delivery in the hands of local people. I think that is important.

In day care, for example, there are a lot of differences in my riding, in towns like Kamsack, Canora and Yorkton, and in the riding of the minister from Manitoba, in a town like Steinbach, in comparison to, say, Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. If we had more localized delivery of programs, perhaps that may solve some of the problems we have today.

There are a lot of ideas out there that I think we should be looking at, but we have to put them all on the table. The best way of coming out of this thing with an accommodation that makes everybody feel at home is to have an open and fair and democratic process, and that is what our motion is trying to accomplish today. Without the process, the end result will fail.

With the process, I am sure that we as Canadians will find the consensus, will find the compromise, will find the accommodation that reflects our reality. That is that great mirror that reflects our reality, and that is how we will build our Constitution and build our country.

[*Translation*]

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Before we get into the question and comment period, I would like to inform the House that I am ready to give my ruling.