

*Oral Questions*

• (1450)

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's response. Human Life International is organizing political protests. It has inundated all members of Parliament in this House with absolutely revolting postcards that show a foetus at almost full term as well as pamphlets that say: "How day care destroyed a nation" and "The victims of an abortion profiteer".

I appreciate that the minister will review it. I want to ask him if he will also report back to the House after his review of this organization and its status?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue):** The answer to the last portion of the hon. member's question is yes. At the same time I want to make it very clear that this government, as I am sure all members of this House of Commons, does not condone any such activities as the hon. member refers to. I repeat again that I will be looking at it as early as this afternoon and will get back to the hon. member right away.

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[Translation]

**QUEBEC REFERENDUM**

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday the government hit on a unique way to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1942 referendum on conscription. The Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs announced that he intended to table a referendum bill very shortly.

The government must be aware of the fact that Quebec passed Bill 150, which provides for a referendum on sovereignty to be held next October.

My question is this: why does the government plan to short-circuit what the people of Quebec will decide in their referendum?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have said, and the minister has said on many occasions, that the government or the Parliament of Canada does not intend to usurp the right of any province, including Quebec, to have a referendum when and on what it sees fit. And this of course includes the important question coming up this fall.

That being said, we as the federal Parliament of this country will not yield our right to consult Canadians as well. Quebecers are also Canadians, and most are proud of it. If the Parliament of Canada decides to consult Canadians in Quebec, we will do so.

Now my hon. friend raised the subject of Bill 150, which has become a sacred cow for him and his colleagues, although the Parti Quebecois voted against the bill in the National Assembly.

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may remind you that I signed the Bélanger-Campeau commission's report and was the only member of this House to do so.

English Canada has every right, and we respect that right, to decide what its own future will be. However, with all due respect, it has no right to make a decision on Quebec sovereignty. That is a matter for Quebecers to decide in a Quebec referendum held under the auspices of the Quebec government.

This prerogative should be respected by a Conservative government that last year was so proud of the fact that it recognized Quebec's right to determine its own future.

Will the Prime Minister promise not to interfere with the workings of Quebec's democratic system?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** The hon. member has a seat in the Parliament of Canada, is paid by Canadian taxpayers and expects to receive a pension paid by the Canadian people, and he would deny the Parliament of Canada the right to consult Canadians living in Quebec? I think not. If the Parliament of Canada decides to consult Quebecers, we will, because we represent all Canadians.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I have said on several occasions that we would respect Bill 150, despite the fact that the PQ voted against the bill. We intend to respect this legislation. Nor do we have any intention of usurping the legitimate right of the Quebec government and the Quebec National Assembly to consult the people of Quebec, just as British Columbia has the right to consult its citizens under legislation passed by that province. However, I want to make it quite clear to the hon. member that as far as this government is concerned—and I think as far as all parliamentarians are concerned, at least those who believe that this country, which was ranked number one by the United Nations last week, is worth saving—we in