

*Oral Questions*

or her province or territory has expressed fundamentally the need for change in the way in which governments relate to each other, the way in which our economy works and the way in which we approach the next century.

Right across the country, in Quebec most certainly but also in western Canada, Ontario and Atlantic Canada, there is a deep desire for change, progress and improvement. We have seen that in the way the government has acted. Every single government department has begun to change the way in which it operates focusing only on the most essential.

We are seeing it in our new trading relationships and in fact the minister is rarely here. Canada is in the process of opening new trading relationships right across the country. I take that back; the minister is always here in spirit.

It is seen in the way the government is working with small business and the great degree of flexibility.

[Translation]

One thing is very clear: we have a choice on October 30 between progress and change for our country or a backward step, as represented by the Yes side.

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**CANADIAN DOLLAR**

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

The Premier of Quebec and leader of the Yes side clearly expressed his intention to continue to use the Canadian dollar once Quebec achieves sovereignty. He also committed a sovereign Quebec to assuming its share of the enormous Canadian debt.

Does the Minister of Finance not believe that he too should be clear and, rather than allow uncertainty to pervade the financial community, he should indicate that he has in fact prepared a plan "B", should the yes side win on October 30, as it likely will, which he has stubbornly refused to confirm up to now?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the only thing that is clear in what the separatists say about the use of the Canadian dollar is their ambiguity.

A week ago, the Leader of the Opposition said, at the Ahuntsic CEGEP, that he wanted a separate Quebec to use its own money. A year ago, in Portneuf, he asked what point there was in separating if Quebecers were not going to have their own money. In *L'Actualité*, where it appears in black and white, the Premier of Quebec said that keeping the Canadian dollar was simply a ruse, that he wanted a Quebec dollar. So who is speaking the truth? The Leader of the Opposition today or the Leader of the Opposition last week?

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, that is totally false. The Leader of the Opposition did not say that.

Will the Minister of Finance admit he has a responsibility to make a commitment that, the day after a yes vote, he will argue in favour of negotiations beginning quickly with Quebec to reach a partnership agreement, as the interests of both parties dictate?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we have said repeatedly that Canada's interest would be to protect its rights within NAFTA. And, in order to protect its rights within NAFTA, Canada could not sign a special agreement with an independent, that is, separated, country. It is not that Canada would not, it is that Canada could not.

Second, is the member saying that the Leader of the Opposition was incorrectly quoted on *Canada AM*, was incorrectly quoted in Portneuf and that the leader, the Premier, was incorrectly quoted in *L'Actualité* when, in each instance, they said clearly that they wanted to give up the certainty of the Canadian dollar for the uncertainty of the Quebec dollar?

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• (1435)

[English]

**JUSTICE**

**Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, convicted murderer John Lee received an out of court settlement of \$12,000 after suing Correctional Service Canada because he was beaten up in jail. Lee's victims, Mrs. Tutin and the rest of the family, received no compensation and are demanding an explanation from the justice minister why he received this out of court settlement.

Why is the justice minister giving money to murderers?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the individual in question sued Correctional Service Canada for negligence after being seized as a hostage by other prisoners and beaten with an iron bar.

He sued for \$60,000. When the case came to court, there was a pretrial conference and the presiding judge strongly urged that the case be settled. The case was then settled for \$12,000 of which about \$8,000 went to the inmate's lawyer.

This was a step that was taken in light of the advice from the presiding judge. The court indicated that a settlement was in order and this is what happened.