The Constitution

NAYS

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Manley McGuire Milliken Murphy Nunziata Pagtakhan Phinney Samson Speller Taylor Venne Walker

Young (Beaches - Woodbine) -82

PAIRED MEMBERS

Nowlan

Shields

Madam Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the third time and passed.

SPECIAL DEBATE

• (1830)

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to order adopted on Wednesday, February 5, 1992, the House will continue its proceedings for the sole purpose of allowing members to make presentations on the results of discussions they have had with their constituents on the constitutional issue.

For the purpose of the special debate, the question before the House shall be:

That this House do now adjourn.

[English]

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity the House has presented to all members of Parliament to discuss what I think is probably the most important issue that we will deal with in this term of Parliament. Obviously the future of our country is very important, not only to the 295 members of the House, but to all 26.5 million Canadians. I appreciate that the House has collectively decided that each member of Parliament should be allotted some time in this Chamber to present the views that he or she has been able to put together from constituents in their individual riding. It does show that in this House members of the opposition, the opposition House leader and the government House leader can come together to come up with a system or a process whereby we can all participate.

What I would like to do this evening in the time that is allotted as the lead-off speaker in this particular session is to present the views of the Ontario riding as they relate to the 28 constitutional proposals that the government has circulated.

At the end of my presentation I would like to table in the House this document that was put together by the constituents of Ontario riding. Earlier today this document was presented to the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs. It was also presented to the joint committee dealing with the constitutional proposals. It was also shared with many Canadians today who travelled to Ottawa to meet with the minister and the parliamentary committee.

As well, I would like to table a questionnaire that was sent out on behalf of the committee to all 57,000 households in my riding. They invited all 57,000 households to present their views on the constitutional proposals that are presently under way.

Last August, at the outset of this process, I invited eight Canadians of several political persuasions who are residents of Ontario riding to come together and spearhead a very public process and to present their views on the Constitution.