

*The Address—Mr. Kaplan**[English]*

What you need to have to amend our Constitution is a Canada Round, and that is what we tried to do, building on the structure of Meech Lake. We tried. We were shut off at the pass by a Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and by a Premier of Québec who, as I have shown, did not care whether or not Meech Lake went through.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis).

**Mr. Charest:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Minister rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Charest:** Mr. Speaker, I think you have come to realize that the Meech Lake Accord issue raised by the Hon. Member is a source of much interest not only among the Members of this House, but the general public as well. I seek therefore the unanimous consent of the House to let my hon. friend deal further with this issue—

*[English]*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Port Moody—Coquitlam (Mr. Waddell) on the same point of order.

**Mr. Waddell:** With reference to the 10-minute period, I wished to ask a question. Are there five minutes left?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There is not a 10-minute question and comment period. It is a five-minute question and comment period for the time being. The five minutes is over. However, there is a request from a Government Minister to extend the question and comment period.

That cannot be extended for an indefinite period. If there is agreement in the House, I could propose to the House that this period be extended for 10 minutes.

**Mr. Waddell:** I cannot speak for all my colleagues, but I would like to see it extended. I would agree to that, providing we also have an opportunity. I respect the Minister, but he cannot monopolize all the time. He has time to speak, and he could ask a few questions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** We will agree therefore to extend the question and comment period.

**Mr. Kaplan:** I should inform the House that I have to leave town, but not until 10 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** We will extend the question and comment period on the speech of the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) for a short period of time, if Hon. Members will leave it at my discretion.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will ensure that a representative from the New Democratic Party is able to ask a question, and also at least one representative from the Official Opposition.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Corbeil:** Mr. Speaker, if we were looking for an event which occurred over the past few years which could explain why the Liberal Party failed so miserably in Quebec during the last two elections, the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) has just identified it very clearly.

I never thought I would hear during my lifetime a York Centre representative claiming in this House to be a genuine Québec spokesman who could better voice Québécois' aspirations than the Québec Premier himself. If the Meech Lake Accord has been signed, Mr. Speaker, it is because the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) who is much more eager to unify than divide—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Corbeil:** —has agreed to sit with his provincial counterparts to try and find ways and means to bring Québec back with dignity into the Canadian fold, as the Minister of State (Youth) stated a while ago.

• (1350)

And here we see the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) rising in the House and, substituting himself for Québécois and the Québec Premier, claiming that the Meech Lake Accord which, as the Minister of State (Youth) (Mr. Charest) reminded us earlier, was unanimously concluded by the ten provincial Premiers, was the most important issue which we had to deal with as a priority. What I would like to know from the Hon. Member for York Centre is whether the Federal Liberal Party, or at least what is left of it, still considers now the Meech Lake Accord as the first and foremost constitutional priority?