

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTIONEXTRAORDINARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY PRIME MINISTER
AND PROVINCIAL COUNTERPARTS

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, I was and I am proud to be a Canadian, and from now on I will be even prouder.

Our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Premiers of the provinces have put in long hours of hard work to reach a consensus representing the various interests and cultures of this beautiful country of ours.

[English]

The naysayers, those "quick-blooming" critics of the last few days, were determined to undermine the political will for national reconciliation so strongly expressed in the last election. They even contradicted themselves.

However, in recognizing our differences and confirming our constitutional right to be different, this agreement to unite Canadians truly represents a superb best effort on the part of the Leaders of our Governments and particularly our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister indicated that consultations and discussions would continue. In any case, as an English-speaking Canadian and a Quebecer, I would like to thank our leaders for their exceptional work, and I think we should all celebrate their outstanding success.

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THE CONSTITUTIONCONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—NEGOTIATING TALENTS AND
LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Richard Grisé (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, as of today we can say that we have a real Canada, united, dynamic, stronger than ever thanks to the efforts of our Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, who showed exceptional political know-how and a deep commitment to put an end to Quebec's constitutional isolation.

The Prime Minister and the ten Premiers, especially Quebec's Premier, Mr. Robert Bourassa, turned a page in this country's history, and Quebec's enthusiastic and honourable entry into the Constitution marks the beginning of a chapter that will allow us to build a new Canada for the coming decades. This Conservative Government proved capable of reaching an accord with ten provincial Governments representing four different parties, thereby meeting with courage, stamina and persistence the challenge of national reconciliation. This points to the negotiating and leadership abilities of our Prime Minister, who turned into a constitutional agreement the understanding in principle reached at Meech Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I feel great satisfaction today at being a Canadian and a Quebecer, and with the support of my constituents in Chambly, may I tell you, Mr. Prime Minister—

● (1420)

[English]

I want to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) for giving Canadians not two but one Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF ZIMBABWE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to bring to Member's attention the presence in the gallery of Mr. Edison Zvobgo, Minister of Justice of Zimbabwe.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CROWN PRINCE OF HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Mr. Speaker: I would also like to draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in our gallery of his Royal Highness Crown Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—PUBLIC HEARINGS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Prime Minister that he has lived a very significant event in the history of our country. When the Prime Minister of Canada comes over to shake my hand, I shake his hand, but before congratulating him we will want to study—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):—the technical and legal language.

I want to ask a couple of questions about where we go from here. Both Premiers Pawley and Peterson suggested that there was a commitment to federal parliamentary hearings, House of Commons, Senate, or both, and public hearings, so that Canadians and parliamentarians can express their opinions.

Canadian Press quotes Premier Peterson as being happy with "plans for federal public hearings on the proposed