

Government Orders

that over time these problems can be fixed. They can be repaired and adjusted.

For us, economic union is crucial. We are very disappointed that we did not get more than we did. We cannot live in a modern age having protectionism like we see in Canada among the provinces where workers and manufacturers cannot move or sell to other jurisdictions. How can we compete in the world if we do not have flexibility? I have some examples. In my riding of Beauséjour, an industrialist told me that he cannot sell to the Government of Nova Scotia because his factory is within two miles of New Brunswick's border.

If we cannot compete within Canada, how can we compete in the world? This has to be dealt with. This problem can be fixed with the amending formula. It can be fixed with seven provinces representing 50 per cent of the population. I think it can be fixed and I can guarantee Canadians that we will work to fix it. Otherwise we will be out of international competition.

We are not happy with the provision relating to the Senate. Liberals were the ones who, very clearly, were not afraid to talk about effectiveness. Liberals always said that equality will necessarily be at the expense of effectiveness. There is no doubt in my mind that is exactly what happened. When I reflected on the problem, I realized that we, in the House of Commons, will be able to prepare legislation that will guide the operation of the future Senate.

Already within my caucus we have established a committee to look at ways and means of ensuring that the rules of Parliament will give an adequate set of powers to the Senate so that it will become effective. The regions will feel that they are more represented at the centre than before. This is something that can be achieved through rule changes.

It will be achieved because it will be a representation based on a different basis. In politics, justice is important, but the appearance of justice is very important too. If we have a Senate that is effective, it in turn will give the people a sense that they have been heard.

There will be a debate in the House of Commons. After that, there will be a debate in the Senate. If we give the Senate some real power, the people will feel

that they have been heard. One of the frustrations we are having in the House of Commons is that members can be very eloquent on some problems. However, when the vote comes, they know that they might cause an election if they vote a certain way.

Very often views are expressed in caucuses. There is a sense by some constituents that the members of Parliament have not spoken loudly or clearly enough. The Senators will have a chance to express themselves a second time openly and without the danger of defeating the government. There is frustration because arbitrating disputes is always difficult in any federation.

Justice is needed and the appearance of justice has to be there too. The new Senate will help to achieve it.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Another problem is the referendum question. I would have liked the question to be worded a little differently. In the referendum, I would have liked Canadians to be able to say yes very clearly and unequivocally to Quebecers, so that there is no ambiguity. At the same time, I would have liked Quebecers to be able to say yes in an unambiguous, clear and unequivocal way to Canada, to say that we Quebecers want to stay in Canada.

The question as worded deals only with the proposal for constitutional renewal. It therefore leaves dissatisfied all those who were anxious to vote on the complete separation of Quebec. I have no illusions about Mr. Parizeau's real intentions. It is a bit funny to hear him say now that they do not want to talk about separation any more. They do not speak of separation, because they are afraid of that word; they use the word "sovereignty". Why not call a spade a spade? A dictionary definition of sovereigntist would be someone who wants the separation of Quebec. Why not call things by their name? For them, a no vote will not be a vote for the *status quo*, nor will it be a vote for a new round of negotiations to renew the Canadian federation. I hope that my fellow citizens in Quebec will not be caught in their game and will see very well that their only goal is to make sure that Canada does not work.