

to deal with that issue. Naturally, we hope that the success of today will pave the way for success in considering the other very important matter which the Hon. Member has raised. I can assure the Hon. Member that we are as determined to address that issue today as we have been over the last two years.

• (1430)

CREATION OF NEW PROVINCES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, that is hopeful. We will be giving close attention to whatever happens today.

The Northwest Territories and Yukon have asked that the unanimity rule for amendments not apply to the creation of new provinces. Surely the federal Government and the provinces can accept that request. Will the Minister confirm that? It is a simple enough matter.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is aware of the fact that Yukon and the Northwest Territories have chosen to take legal action in this regard. I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment as a result of the action which is being taken.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—EFFECT ON AMHERSTBURG

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. The largest employer in Amherstburg, a small town in my constituency, General Chemical Company of Canada has released a position paper on free trade in which it states: “—the tariffs on (its products) are vital to its survival”. It warns that over 1,600 jobs will be lost by its “probable” need to close under free trade. This would be a human tragedy for a small town of 8,500 people. Is the Minister prepared to meet with company and town representatives and to listen to their very strong representations about how free trade would hurt the town of Amherstburg?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly take the Hon. Member's suggestion into account. But I must point out that the whole history of Canada has shown that as tariff barriers come down jobs grow and Canadian companies thrive. It is only when the barriers are erected that Canadian companies have trouble.

I think that the Hon. Member's constituents should be reassured by the performance of Canadians generally and Canadian companies which are world-class competitors among the world's largest trading nations.

Oral Questions

EMPLOYMENT

COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAM

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the details of this case are documented in black and white in a company document which makes it clear that its survival as a company and the 1,600 jobs involved are very much at stake.

I ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration to immediately start negotiations, discussions, with town and company officials to make Amherstburg eligible for the Community Futures Program of his Ministry so that this immense human problem can be avoided.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, since the New Democratic Party has not really looked upon the Jobs Strategy as a valid one, I am surprised that the Hon. Member is suggesting this way of including that industry in the program. However, our criteria are fair and equitable, and since we look at all the applications we receive across the country, if the community in question meets those criteria, its application will be taken into consideration.

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[*English*]

THE CONSTITUTION

MEECH LAKE ACCORD—PROCESS OF RATIFICATION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Again today the Deputy Prime Minister has refused to answer a very basic question with regard to the constitutional Accord. When the Leader of the Opposition asked him whether the House will have the fundamental right to amend the legal text the Minister's answer was, and I repeat: “We are ready to negotiate this with House Leaders of Parties”.

The following question begs to be asked. Will the Government now say clearly that Parliament will enjoy its traditional right, or will it admit that what it wants to do is use its huge majority to steamroll the text of the Accord through the House as a *fait accompli*? What is it that the Government wants to do?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is simply whistling in the dark. The answer to his question is the same as it was earlier today and the same as it was yesterday.

[*Translation*]

AMENDING CONSTITUTIONAL TEXT—CITIZENS' RIGHTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I'll say where we stand, we of the Opposition. We are not