

S. O. 29

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The question enumerated by the Hon. Minister has been answered.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

[Translation]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

SUSPENSION OF FREE TRADE TALKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I sent notice that I would ask the Chair to allow an emergency debate under the provisions of Standing Order 29. In fact, the Official Opposition has been asking for such a debate nearly every day for almost a week. We feel that Canadians should be informed about the trade talks and be correctly informed about what is happening between the U.S. and Canada with respect to free trade.

Mr. Speaker, you suggested several times that the Government could use another approach, such as an Opposition day or a motion. That has not been done. Your advice was ignored. We sincerely believe that a debate is necessary and that a debate on this matter is urgently needed since this is the last sitting day we will have to do so. Considering the importance of the subject and the timely and urgent aspect of the trade talks, I thought that today you would perhaps be willing to recognize the urgency of this matter and give permission for a special debate under Standing Order 29.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) for his comments. As I said on previous days, this is of course a very important subject but, considering the present circumstances, the Chair is reluctant to agree that a debate is urgently needed this afternoon.

I know the Hon. Member will understand that the Chair's decision does not in any way overlook the importance of the issue, but perhaps Monday or some other day, there will be another opportunity when a debate would be appropriate. Today, however, the Chair does not feel that is the case.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, 1987

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn:

WHEREAS the *Constitution Act, 1982* came into force on April 17, 1982, following an agreement between Canada and all the provinces except Quebec;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has established a set of five proposals for constitutional change and has stated that amendments to give effect

to those proposals would enable Quebec to resume a full role in the constitutional councils of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the amendment proposed in the schedule hereto sets out the basis on which Quebec's five constitutional proposals may be met;

AND WHEREAS the amendment proposed in the schedule hereto also recognizes the principle of the equality of all the provinces, provides new arrangements to foster greater harmony and cooperation between the Government of Canada and the governments of the provinces and requires that conferences be convened to consider important constitutional, economic and other issues;

AND WHEREAS certain portions of the amendment proposed in the schedule hereto relate to matters referred to in section 41 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS section 41 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* provides that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Commons and of the legislative assembly of each province;

NOW THEREFORE the House of Commons resolves that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada be authorized to be made by proclamation issued by Her Excellency the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada in accordance with the schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, 1987

Constitution Act, 1867

1. The *Constitution Act, 1867* is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 1 thereof, the following section:

"2. (1) The Constitution of Canada shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with

(a) the recognition that the existence of French-speaking Canadians, centred in Quebec but also present elsewhere in Canada, and English-speaking Canadians, concentrated outside Quebec but also present in Quebec, constitutes a fundamental characteristic of Canada; and
(b) the recognition that Quebec constitutes within Canada a distinct society.

(2) The role of the Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures to preserve the fundamental characteristic of Canada referred to in paragraph (1)(a) is affirmed.

(3) The role of the legislature and Government of Quebec to preserve and promote the distinct identity of Quebec referred to in paragraph (1)(b) is affirmed.

(4) Nothing in this section derogates from the powers, rights or privileges of Parliament or the Government of Canada, or of the legislatures or governments of the provinces, including any powers, rights or privileges relating to language."

2. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 24 thereof, the following section:

"25. (1) Where a vacancy occurs in the Senate, the government of the province to which the vacancy relates may, in relation to that vacancy, submit to the Queen's Privy Council for Canada the names of persons who may be summoned to the Senate.

(2) Until an amendment to the Constitution of Canada is made in relation to the Senate pursuant to section 41 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the person summoned to fill a vacancy in the Senate shall be chosen from among persons whose names have been submitted under subsection (1) by the government of the province to which the vacancy relates and must be acceptable to the Queen's Privy Council for Canada."

3. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 95 thereof, the following heading and sections:

"Agreements on Immigration and Aliens

95A. The Government of Canada shall, at the request of the government of any province, negotiate with the government of that province for the purpose of concluding an agreement relating to immigration or the temporary admission of aliens into that province that is appropriate to the needs and circumstances of that province.

95B. (1) Any agreement concluded between Canada and a province in relation to immigration or the temporary admission of aliens into that