

*Oral Questions*

that we are talking about, but we are talking about a fundamental issue that affects all of us in this House of Commons.

If the GST goes through and Canadians do not like it, they can vote this government out.

**Some hon. members:** They will.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** But, if the tactics of Senator MacEachen and the other Liberal senators are followed and they win the day, what can Canadians do with Mr. MacEachen? Nothing. They have no recourse. They have no way of expressing their point of view on what the position of the Senate should be because they are unelected.

That is the fundamental principle, and the questions that the Liberal Party is trying to pose there will not and cannot deflect from that fundamental principle.

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[*Translation*]

#### BY-ELECTIONS IN THE RIDINGS OF YORK NORTH AND BEAUSÉJOUR

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

When does he intend to call a by-election in the ridings of York North and Beauséjour?

[*English*]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Soon, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has left the people of York North without an elected representative since May 29 last. Previously the Prime Minister has taunted the Liberals to get their leader elected. The MP for Beauséjour has resigned his seat believing that the Prime Minister was serious.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister now put his money where his mouth is and have the Prime Minister call an immediate election?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are

anxious to get the leader of the Liberal Party into the Chamber because—

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is, if he can get here. We are getting a little sick and tired of the leadership that is being provided from the other place.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

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#### CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the Prime Minister, during his speech at the children's summit, said: "And to the children, I invite you to listen carefully to what we say and in the coming years to hold us to our commitments. I hope none of us will be found wanting".

Would the Deputy Prime Minister tell us and the one in six children in Canada living in poverty just what this government's agenda or timetable is to meet and comply with the UN Convention on Children's Rights?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have the opportunity to respond to this question. The summit, which was held under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Canada this weekend, was the most successful summit of its kind in the history of the world.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Beatty:** We are taking action as of now. I am pleased to be able to inform the House of Commons that consistent with recommendation No. 1 of Mr. Rix Rogers' report, the Prime Minister today asked me to co-ordinate activities within the government relating to children in response to the declaration on behalf of children at the United Nations. Second, and in response to recommendation No. 2 of Mr. Rix Rogers, I am announcing today the creation of a children's bureau within Health and Welfare Canada to assist us in doing that.

We are committed to full ratification of the convention. We will have that done before the end of next year. Our goal is to ensure that all legislation in Canada complies with the convention itself, which will enter into Canadian law.

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the menu was very nice. The food banks would like to have had that kind of surplus. I also