

*Oral Questions*

unanimously. I would have to go back and check the record.

Sometime thereafter, in February 1984, Prime Minister Trudeau communicated with me again, and he communicated with Mr. Broadbent, and called upon the House to debate again a resolution that would call upon the Government and the Legislature of Manitoba to honour its commitments given to the French speaking minority in the province of Manitoba.

On both of those occasions I rose and stood in my place, notwithstanding some difficulties, and I was counted. As I said to my hon. friend, it is important that all Canadians know where all those who seek to be leaders and who are leaders stand on these great national issues. That is all that we seek to do by this resolution.

On June 1 the leader of the NDP was asked: "Did the Prime Minister show you any polls or anything like that kind of information that would obviously jolt the two of you into coming out with this sort of unity-country scare scenario here?"

The leader of the NDP said: "I don't think we are coming up with a scare scenario. No, the Prime Minister didn't show us any polls. All of us read the papers. All of us have contacts in every province and territory in this country. I think we are all very well informed about the feelings in this country, the kinds of objectives in every part of the country. It wasn't necessary for the Prime Minister to create a crisis scenario—I know there is a crisis in the country."

That is what the leader of the NDP was saying three weeks ago. We are trying to deal with that crisis, and I ask her to stand and support us in that.

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

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, neither the New Democratic Party nor anyone in this caucus needs to enter into a debate about the importance of the unity of this country. The bottom line for the New Democratic Party is the unity of this country.

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

**Ms. McLaughlin:** It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I ask the Prime Minister this question. He told this country publicly last week, after the First Ministers'

Conference, that he had a plan. We know now that plan did not work. We cannot have any more secret plans.

Will the Prime Minister tell the people of Canada, in this House today, what his plan is? Not the history of other debates, not what happened in 1984, but what is going to happen in 1990 about the unity of the country? What is he going to do? What plan is he presenting to the people of Canada?

• (1440)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, three years ago, in June 1987, we managed to secure a unanimous agreement, signed by 10 premiers and the federal government, which was then passed twice in the House of Commons. It was a process welcoming Quebec back into Confederation.

In the intervening three years, the time frame provided by section 39(2) of the 1982 Constitution, three governments changed. Two of them did not follow through; one revoked the consent given. I then had to work with my colleagues and with many of you to bring them together again, as we did last week. Again we achieved what appeared to be the consent, if not the binding obligation of 10 out of the 10, plus the Government of Canada.

At this moment, as we speak, eight legislatures representing 94 per cent of the population of Canada have already ratified the Meech Lake Accord. Newfoundland is going to vote on it, and Manitoba has yet to even take cognizance of it, irrespective of and notwithstanding the undertaking signed by the premier of Manitoba and the other premiers.

This is the history. I do not know why my hon. friend—

**Some hon. members:** What's the plan?

**Mr. Mulroney:** The NDP is yelling: "What's the plan?" The leader of the NDP said that the bottom line—and I do not quarrel with her statement—for the NDP is the unity of Canada. If that is the case, perhaps she could talk to the NDP member in Manitoba and ask him to pass the Meech Lake Accord.

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**CANADA POST**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada Post.