

Oral Questions

In the last two days the leader of the separatists has imprudently let out several secrets which were supposed to have been kept well hidden until after the referendum.

The negotiator on the PQ payroll has no intention of trying to preserve citizenship and the Canadian passport after a yes victory. What he wants is clear: a Quebec passport.

The day after a yes vote, he will be able to guarantee only one thing: Quebec will be a separate country. He wants nothing to do with any proposition aimed at renewing federalism.

Ten days away from the referendum, Quebecers are suddenly discovering what is behind the separatist plan: they want nothing less than to provoke the disintegration of our country. On October 30, the answer they will receive will be no.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the biggest disappointment Reformers have experienced in Parliament is the anti-democratic behaviour of the government.

The Prime Minister exercises dictatorial control over his MPs. MPs who have voted their constituents' wishes on Bill C-41, Bill C-68 and other legislation have been punished for voting for the people they represent.

The anti-democratic behaviour has been demonstrated in legislation. Bill C-64 replaces hiring based on merit with hiring based on quota. Bill C-68 throws out such basic rights as protection against unreasonable search and seizure. Now the Liberal government is sabotaging section 2 of the charter by acting as thought police.

Canadians are entitled to fundamental freedoms of thought, belief, opinion and expression. Yet these Liberals have set up a committee to monitor and set out punishments for expressing ideas in the House with which the Liberals do not agree.

• (1115)

The government is smothering debate and stifling meaningful dialogue. George Orwell would be proud.

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[Translation]

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the true face of the separatists has emerged in a document released by the office of the hon. member for Chateaugay. The document is a parody of the Lord's Prayer.

It might well be considered sacrilegious in both the religious and the secular meaning of the word. The prayer in question, if we can glorify it by that name, petitions as follows:

Forgive us for having been Canadians
As we shall forgive those
Who so remain.

We will never ask anyone to forgive us for being Canadian. Quebecers will never prostrate themselves before the Leader of the Opposition, or the other separatists, either October 30 or at any other time.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ): Mr. Speaker, in a very revealing speech which included references to duplication and overlap, the Minister of Foreign Affairs explained that Quebec was too small to negotiate on equal terms with the rest of Canada. This unfortunate statement is one more example of what we have been hearing from Laurent Beaudoin, Claude Garcia and the Prime Minister himself, each of whom either think Quebec is too small, want to crush it or want to give it a drubbing.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Could he tell us whether he agrees with the Minister of Foreign Affairs who considers that Quebec is too small to negotiate on equal terms with the rest of Canada?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to know what kind of negotiations they have in mind, because when the Leader of the Opposition is on the hustings, at one point like yesterday, for instance, in the morning he was all for sovereignty without association or without a partnership, while that afternoon and evening it was not the same message.

It is clear, and this bears repeating, that when in Quebec they say that, after Quebec separates, there will be a new structure in which Quebec will have exactly the same number of representatives as the rest of Canada, which represents three times as many people, the rest of Canada will never go along with that. This is like suggesting that in the parliament of an independent Quebec, just because Quebec City is the capital, it should have the same number of members as Montreal.

In a democracy every person counts. If there is to be a Canadian structure, it must respect the democratic principle according to which members are elected in their respective ridings, while the Canadian constitution provides for a minimum level of representation for the smaller provinces like Prince Edward Island, which is protected in the constitution.