

*Oral Questions*

possible for Quebec to become a member of the great Canadian family once more.

## REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

**Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates as well to the constitutional propositions concerning Quebec. Can the Prime Minister reply to the previous question? Can he be more specific and tell the House what specific constitutional propositions he intends to make to Quebec? We would like to have an answer to that question.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of tabling specific proposals today. It would be up to me and the provincial premiers to discuss them, as agreed within the process ratified by my provincial colleagues in Edmonton. We will discuss this during a meeting at Meach Lake.

## BASIC GUIDELINES CONCERNING CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister at least let us know the basic guidelines concerning these constitutional discussions, basic guidelines which would make it possible for Quebec to adhere to Canada with honour and enthusiasm? Is the Prime Minister prepared to follow the example of the New Democratic Party and acknowledge the uniqueness of Quebec?

**An Hon. Member:** And why not?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the last thing I would do would be to follow the example of the New Democrats. If my friend... We know what that brought the New Democrats in the past, and we know exactly what is going to happen in the next election. Just wait and see what the people of Quebec have in store for you. You will have nice surprises in the next election. If you want to know more about our basic philosophy, read my Sept-Îles speech and you will see there is a possibility of agreement between Quebec and Canada.

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• (1430)

[English]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to draw the attention of Members to the presence in our gallery today of General John L. Piotrowski, Commander in Chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS ACT

## TOBACCO—HEALTH HAZARD INQUIRY

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I have in my hand a Statement of Claim filed in the Federal Court of Canada alleging interference by the Minister in a departmental investigation of tobacco as a hazardous product. Can the Minister honestly tell the House that tobacco is not a health hazard? If he cannot, then why did he stop his Department's investigation?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, first, I do not know how I could fulfil my responsibilities as a Minister without interfering in the operations of my Department. Second, there is no investigation in which I could have interfered in this particular case had I been so inclined. Third, I wrote to Dr. Pipe, head of Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, stating that I am willing to consider the use of the Hazardous Products Act to regulate tobacco products but that a comprehensive tobacco policy is being developed under the leadership of my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and that if the Hazardous Products Act is to be used to regulate tobacco advertising then we are certainly ready to participate in that way.

[Translation]

## REQUEST FOR TOBACCO INVESTIGATION UNDER PROVISIONS OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS ACT

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Considering that he also has the right to invoke the necessity of an inquiry and reverse the decision made by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs under the Hazardous Products Act, is he willing today, after all his rhetoric about the tobacco issue on television all across the country, to reverse the unfortunate decision made by his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and to launch an inquiry on the use of tobacco under the Hazardous Products Act?

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member did not hear what my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, said. First, there is nothing to reverse if no action had to be taken. We have said many times in the House that we are working as a Government on a plan regarding the reduction of smoking and the health hazards that are obviously related to smoking. We have said that we will come forward with a comprehensive plan.

**Mr. Marchi:** All smoke and no fire.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** We might even smoke the Hon. Member out.

**Mr. Marchi:** Make my day!