

harméd our publishers, book stores, libraries, students and writers.

The Prime Minister promised in October, 1990, to review the effects of the GST on reading material after a year, and to examine its impact. It is time for that review. It is time to restore the traditional zero tax rate to reading in Canada.

[Translation]

By the way, it will soon be two years since the Prime Minister made this promise on the basis of which Senator Solange Chaput-Rolland voted against the Liberal amendment to exempt books from the GST in spite of all the qualms she had about it. On October 30, 1990, Senator Chaput-Rolland formally undertook to remind her Prime Minister of his promise, and I quote:

I swear before my fellow Senators . . .

So, along with the above-mentioned petitioners, her fellow Senators are still waiting.

• (2100)

QUESTION PERIOD

ANSWERS TO ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS TABLED

[English]

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES—ENERGY CONSERVATION

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled the answer to Question No. 34 on the Order Paper—by Senator Kenny.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED IN
NEWFOUNDLAND

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled the answer to Question No. 61 on the Order Paper—by Senator Marshall.

LOBBYISTS REGISTRATION—LOBBYING ACTIVITY SINCE
PROMULGATION OF ACT

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled the answer to Question No. 69 on the Order Paper—by Senator Marshall.

DEFENCE—MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND MERCHANT
NAVY LISTED AS MISSING

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled the answer to Question No. 70 on the Order Paper—by Senator Marshall.

SECRETARY OF STATE—"SYMBOLS OF
NATIONHOOD"—NUMBER OF COPIES PRINTED AND SOLD

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled the answer to Question No. 71 on the Order Paper—by Senator Marshall.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE CONSTITUTION

REFERENDUM QUESTION—MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN
MESSAGE FROM COMMONS—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Murray, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Lynch-Staunton:

That, pursuant to the *Act to provide for referendums on the Constitution of Canada*, the Senate concurs with the House of Commons in approving the following text of a referendum question:

Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28, 1992?

yes

no

and,

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint that House accordingly.

Hon. Dalia Wood: Honourable senators, I rise today to participate in the debate on the referendum question. At the outset, I want to say that I am encouraged to see that the constitutional file may be coming to an end. The judgment of people will be rendered on October the 26 in a national referendum and shortly thereafter in an election.

The Charlottetown accord of August the 28, which we have in front of us today, appears to meet many tests that satisfy traditional Liberal principles. All political parties have been asked to play a constructive role. The views of Canadians have been considered through the work of parliamentary committees and constitutional conferences. Most important, Canadians will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum.

Our leader, Jean Chrétien, has for some time now demanded that there should be a referendum so that all Canadians over the age of 18 can have their say. I am pleased to see that the government finally had the courage to follow the Liberal advice.

The Liberal party has also insisted that any agreement must reflect the commitment of Canadians and their governments to linguistic duality. It must acknowledge that the partnership between French and English exists across the country. French must not be restricted to Quebec, and English must not be restricted to the rest of Canada.

We have also called for the recognition of the inherent right of the Aboriginal peoples to self-government. Such a recognition will make Canada a nation of tolerance and respect. It