

*Government Orders*

collective rights, and equality between persons of both sexes.

The agreement provides for a more efficient and more equitable division of powers between the federal and the provincial governments, a rebalancing of roles and responsibilities to focus the federal government on matters of Canada-wide and international importance and to clarify and protect provincial jurisdiction.

This would express itself, for example, by a better discipline on the use of the federal government's spending power and the protection of intergovernmental agreements. Exclusive provincial jurisdiction would be recognized in the areas of forestry, mining, tourism, housing, recreation, municipal and urban affairs, training, labour market development and cultural matters within the province.

The Constitution would contain a statement of key social and economic policy objectives shared by all of the governments of the federation. The social policy objectives would include comprehensive, universal health care, adequate social services and benefits, high quality primary and secondary education, collective bargaining rights, and a commitment to protecting, preserving and sustaining the integrity of the environment.

The economic policy objectives to be entrenched would include strengthening the Canadian economic union, the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital, ensuring a reasonable standard of living, full employment, and ensuring sustainable and equitable development.

On economic union, I regret that we did not agree to dismantle all internal trade barriers in Canada. This is particularly anomalous inasmuch as we have already achieved a much more comprehensive elimination of barriers between Canada and those foreign nations with which we already enjoy substantial trading arrangements.

By retaining section 121 and agreeing to a political accord that will at the first first ministers' conference on the economy to follow ratification form the basis for modernizing this clause I believe that we will achieve a beneficial result, one that has been actively sought by the Leader of the Opposition and other members of this House, a view to which I subscribe entirely.

[*Translation*]

This agreement has a very special historical significance to francophones in Quebec and elsewhere across Canada. It is part of a process unique in history: the entrenchment of French language and culture in American soil. This great human adventure, embarked upon over 400 years ago by a handful of French explorers on the Gaspé shores is still unfolding today in Quebec and in hundreds of communities across the country where nearly a million francophones continue to make the French language radiate across North America and throughout the francophone community world-wide. As a Quebecer, I feel great pride in knowing that the guarantees for the protection and development of Quebec society and francophone minorities contained in the Charlottetown agreement will help ensure that French is spoken in Canada until the end of time.

• (1530)

As a matter of fact, I have no difficulty in imagining that a Prime Minister of Canada will one day in this House commend the contribution made to our country by a Quebec society in which its overwhelming majority of francophones, 15 or 20 million people, live side by side an English-speaking majority that has retained all its strength and dynamism. On that day, it will be said that the Charlottetown agreement, approved in 1992 by the Canadian people in a referendum and ratified by all the provinces and the federal government, gave a powerful impetus to the cultural, political and economic development of today's Quebec.

It would be wrong to see the provisions of the agreement that apply to Quebecers and to francophones as disparate fragments of powers haphazardly stripped from Ottawa during constitutional negotiations. These provisions make up a whole and, taken in their entirety, constitute one of the most formidable instruments for cultural and economic protection and development that Quebecers have ever, in their history, had at their disposal.

First of all, the historical reality of the distinct character of Quebec society will forever be enshrined in our Constitution, as will Canada's linguistic duality. This recognition of the very nature of Quebec society will become, once the agreement has been ratified, the cornerstone of the expression of Quebecers' future aspirations. To preserve and enhance its French character, Quebec also wants to control immigration within its territory. The agreement that I am tabling in the House