

Oral Questions

Our children are safe and warm. Is that why we don't care?

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[Translation]

TRADE

PLANETARY CHALLENGE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Mrs. Nicole Roy-Arcelin (Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, forced to compete with other economic unions in the rest of the world, Canada had no option but to secure its fair share of the market with its powerful and friendly ally, the United States, so as to face up to the many world-wide challenges of the 21st century.

The socialists and the Liberal Party, two reactionary factions whose ideas have yet to reach beyond the threshold of the 20th century, would have us revert to the horse and buggy days of our forefathers.

Mr. Speaker, McLuhan correctly predicted that technological progress, media and communications development, as well as more numerous economic ties between nations would propel us further away from the moribund economic nationalism which leading members of the Opposition are attempting to revive.

Mr. Speaker, taking a leaf from the book of the Hon. Member for Montmorency—Orléans (Mr. DeBlois), I use a dead language so as to be better understood: *Quousque tandem abutere, Catalina, patientia nostra?* How long will you Liberals and socialists abuse the patience of the population?

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

QUÉBEC'S PROPOSED SIGN LANGUAGE LAW

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In its judgment, the Supreme Court of Canada declared as it related to the Québec sign law that it was clear that it was within the power of the Québec National Assembly to promote the French language as the predominant priority principal language of the province, but not at the expense of excluding minority language rights.

Does the Prime Minister approve of the legislation introduced by Premier Bourassa, applying the so called inside-outside formula which excludes the use of non-French signs outside business establishments? Does he think that that Bill meets the test of the Supreme Court of Canada judgment?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the last two days I have indicated that I neither approve of it nor do I believe that it meets the test of what the Supreme Court said. I indicated this in response to the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and other members of the Leader of the Opposition's Party.

I indicated this morning that the position I have held and continue to hold is that I hope the Government of Quebec could find, as the Supreme Court suggested, a way of accommodating those two fundamental principles of respect for the French speaking dimension of Quebec and respect for the principles enshrined in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

That in regard to the specific issue is the way we wish it to be done. Anything less than that of course is disappointing to us. I have conveyed this to the House time and time again. I have responded to members of the Leader's Party. In respect of the protection of minority rights in the Province of Quebec, both the Member for Mount Royal and the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce complemented me and congratulated the Government on its stand on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): If the Prime Minister is of the view that the legislation introduced by the Premier of Quebec does not meet the test of the Supreme Court judgment, as he just said, how can he approve of that legislation?

[Translation]

APPLICATION OF NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said several times that, in general, he is against applying the notwithstanding clause. Does the Prime Minister approve of the use of this notwithstanding clause in the Quebec Bill itself as a way to get around the Quebec Charter of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and to counter the effects of the judgement rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was and remain opposed to having a notwithstanding clause in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.