

### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Stephen Harper (Calgary West, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, during the referendum campaign, I had the opportunity to travel to Quebec, where sovereignist posters showing possibilities through symbols are everywhere.

I do not understand these ads.

One poster, for example, seems to convey the message that, if Quebecers vote Yes, peace becomes possible. But we already have peace. Vote No and it becomes a certainty.

The posters say that a Yes vote would make the Canadian dollar a possibility. Vote No and it becomes a certainty.

Vote Yes and the economic union becomes a possibility. Vote No and it becomes a certainty.

Vote Yes and NAFTA becomes a possibility. Vote No and it becomes a certainty.

Why trade certainties for possibilities? It will be up to Quebecers to decide, and to live with the consequences.

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**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are only a few days away from the referendum. Quebecers will soon have to decide whether or not they want to leave Canada.

Before making a decision, they should know that Canadians from the other provinces do not want Quebec to separate. Quebec is more than just one province among others. It is the very source of our history, our culture, our identity.

Through its politicians, its thinkers, its reporters, its artists, its athletes, its entrepreneurs, its trade unionists, Quebec has always been closely linked to Canada's development.

On October 30, Quebec will say No to Canada's break-up and decide to carry on its exciting adventure with its Canadian partners and to continue to shape this society, which is the envy of all the people in the world.

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### QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY

**Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the American television network CNN, French president Jacques Chirac reiterated his country's intention to recognize Quebec as a new state, if the Yes side wins next Monday's referendum.

This statement by the French president fully supports the comments he made on January 26, when he was a presidential candidate, namely that: "Should Quebecers decide to achieve sovereignty, France should certainly be among the first to tell Quebec that we are on its side".

### Oral Questions

There is no doubt that if Quebecers vote yes on October 30, the international community, headed by France, will take note and recognize Quebec. That recognition will take place as soon as the National Assembly proclaims Quebec's sovereignty, after formally proposing, in good faith, a new partnership to Canada.

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### QUEBEC REFERENDUM

**Mrs. Pierrette Ringuette-Maltais (Madawaska—Victoria, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, with the referendum coming very soon, I want to quote a statement which, in my opinion, reflects what a majority of Quebecers think of Canada.

The quote is as follows: "I am among those who believe that Canada is not exclusively about failures. We did not live together for 125 years only to make mistakes. One of the great Canadian achievements is that we have cared about the poor and that we have tried to share our wealth. We set up social programs which are among the best in the world, and that must be preserved".

That very pro-federalist statement was made by none other than the Bloc Quebecois leader, on June 18, 1993.

• (1415)

Quebecers are well aware of the merits and benefits of Canada. On October 30, they will choose to remain a part of that country by voting no.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

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**Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, Premier Clyde Wells of Newfoundland has entered the referendum campaign to set the record straight for the No side. It is out of the question that Quebec's status as a distinct society should be recognized constitutionally. Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance declared this morning that the distinct society clause should be enshrined in the Constitution.

Of course my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Could he tell us the government's position on the issue of distinct society? Is it the position he, as the finance minister, took this morning or is it the one taken yesterday by Mr. Clyde Wells, whose position is known to be very close to the Prime Minister's?

**Hon. Lucienne Robillard (Minister of Labour, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House our position is quite clear. We have always said, in fact the Prime Minister himself has said that he supported the concept of distinct society in the past, he supports it today and is prepared to support it tomorrow. The