

## S. O. 31

[Translation]

## CROSS-CANADA REFERENDUM

**Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval-Ouest):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I received a telephone call from the member for Longueuil, asking me to sign a petition from his leader in favour of Quebec sovereignty.

This missive, commonly called "Lucien's letter", was intended to prevent consulting all the people of Canada on the federal constitutional proposals.

Faced with my refusal, he insisted, claiming that 15 members from Quebec had already signed this petition, including the members for Laprairie and Châteauguay.

A check revealed that no Conservative member had signed this petition that would prevent Canadians from expressing their opinion on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, that is intellectual harassment, cheap politicking and undemocratic!

I ask all hon. members of this House to refuse to go along with it, because if we want to respect Canadians and Quebecers, we must let them express themselves freely.

That shows how the Bloc Québécois acts in its attempt to break the harmony that exists in this wonderful country of ours.

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• (1410)

[English]

## AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, it is time this government stopped using GATT as an excuse for inaction at home.

GATT is as far away today as it was yesterday, and the government's attempt to shift the focus to these talks has failed. It is time it got on with the task at hand.

What is clearly needed is a set of policies and programs, many of them promised but not delivered by this government, that will keep our family farms on the land and preserve some stability in the agricultural community while we wait for sanity to return to the international marketplace.

This government cannot have it both ways. It is time to get the job done.

## NATIONAL UNITY

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged to learn that Jim Taylor, a truck driver from Toronto, has taken the initiative as a private citizen to speak out for a united Canada.

Mr. Taylor ordered 200 bumper stickers that read: "My country includes Quebec", and slapped one on his van. People stopped him to ask how to get one, so within four weeks they were gone.

Out of the response of 300 letters, only one was negative. Encouraged with the response, Jim bought billboard space from Mediacom and now there are 15 billboards in 11 cities across Canada with the message in both English and French.

Jim Taylor is exceedingly optimistic about the future of Canada. He knows that there are problems ahead, but he also reminds us that each one of us has the resources to find inventive ways to promote Canadian unity.

Jim Taylor should know. He has taken his step as an ordinary Canadian, and has proven that positive attitudes can be courageous and contagious.

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## UKRAINE

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, the people of Ukraine have long waited for the day they can once again raise their own flag, elect their own leaders and guide their own destiny, fully recognized by the international community.

This December 1, they will be that much closer to this goal. They will vote in a referendum to confirm the act of the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine, passed last August 24. I am heartened Ukraine supports nuclear disarmament and minority rights.

Ukrainians have a right to make this decision, and I am proud to be one of three members of Parliament who will leave for Kiev tomorrow to observe the electoral process.

Ukrainian Canadians, 1 million strong, 100 years in Canada, will be casting a vote in spirit with those in their ancestral home.