

## Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker, as regards the use of the Canadian dollar, I think the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier of Quebec have deliberately created an ambiguity. They talk about using the Canadian dollar, and yet, on two occasions—in Ahuntsic, last week, and in Portneuf, six or eight months ago—the Leader of the Opposition said very clearly that the separatists intended giving up the certainty of the Canadian dollar for the uncertainty of the Quebec dollar.

When we ask ourselves where this double talk is coming from, we know very well. Mr. Parizeau wrote in *L'Actualité* that it was simply a ruse, that he intended to favour the Canadian dollar, but that, ultimately, he wanted a Quebec dollar.

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## REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The desperate appeal by the leader of the no side, Daniel Johnson, to the Prime Minister of Canada addressed not only the distinct society but also Quebec's right of veto and the elimination of duplication and overlap between the federal government and the Government of Quebec. These elements are covered in the document currently being distributed by the no side, via the director general of elections.

Since the joint document has absolutely nothing to say on the question of the right of veto and the elimination of duplication and overlap, can the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs tell us whether the Prime Minister will give in to Mr. Johnson's plea and make his point of view known to the people of Quebec on these two issues before the 30th?

**Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the official opposition is clearly attempting to cloud the issue; it is spreading ideas that are totally contrary to reality. On the question of a distinct society, the leader of the no committee and the Prime Minister have stated their position very clearly.

In the case of the right to veto, the no manifesto is clear, and the Prime Minister has also indicated that the entire membership of the no side approves. But the problem we are facing now in the referendum is that the official opposition is attempting to make people believe that the referendum is about something other than separation. That is why we must repeat again and again that what the Bloc Québécois and the Parti Québécois are attempting to do, what their leaders clearly state as their intention, is to separate Quebec from Canada. There is no other truth, and the opposition's questions are aimed at having Quebecers believe something that does not correspond to reality. The issue is separation.

• (1435)

**Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the chair of the no committee has been very clear in making this urgent appeal for the Prime Minister to make his point of view known on the distinct society, the right of veto and the elimination of duplication and overlap before October 30, Daniel Johnson has said so himself.

Why does the government persist in concealing its true intentions from Quebecers? What more is there that you want to conceal from Quebecers?

**Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, when it comes to concealing things from Quebecers, I believe that we have said, and have proof of having said, what was going to happen; it is the members of the opposition who have tried to make Quebecers believe that partnership is possible.

It is the members of the opposition who have tried to make people believe that a large number of Quebecers could retain their Canadian passports. And it is the members of the opposition too who are trying to convince people that it will be possible for Quebecers to keep the Canadian dollar.

I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is the members of the opposition who are trying to invent stories, tell stories, fairy tales, to the people of Quebec. I repeat, October 30 is about separation. That is what the leaders of the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois are saying and it is the truth.

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[English]

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

**Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

Armed forces personnel can collect a non-taxable separation expense for a period of up to one year when posted. Documents obtained show that for a three-year period then Major-General Armand Roy collected over \$50,000 in non-taxable separation expenses. This is scandalous.

Almost every day I rise in the House and question the minister about the mismanagement of his department. What does the minister have to say about this one today?

**Mr. Fred Mifflin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of National Defence, as parliamentary secretary, in response to the question from the hon. member, who spent a lot of time with me as a member of the special joint committee on defence—