

S. O. 21

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

SUPPORT FOR MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Slowly but surely, Mr. Speaker, we are definitely paving the way for Quebec's return, together with its constitutional rights, to the Canadian fold. The Saskatchewan and Quebec legislatures have already declared their support.

As the House is to begin in a matter of hours the debate on the Meech Lake Accord, once more I want to state emphatically that I wish to see this Accord ratified as soon as possible.

Irrespective of our political allegiance, we, as Members of the House, must vote as one in favour of Quebec's return to the Canadian family. We must say so in so many words. Of course, the interest of Quebecers is at stake, something I am well aware of as a Quebec elected representative, but the interest of Canada as a whole is also at stake.

I therefore urge all elected Members of this House and all Senators who also will have to ratify this Accord, to respect the will of the people and to vote unanimously in favour of Quebec's return to the Canadian constitutional fold.

The Meech Lake Accord is a major step towards national reconciliation, and as was pointed out by Pierre Tremblay in his column in today's *Le Devoir* newspaper, "gone are the days of confrontation, now is the time for reconciliation and realism. The Meech-Langevin philosophy is a scenario for peace, whereas Trudeau's credo was to stir up war".

This House and the provincial legislatures which have not yet ratified the Meech Lake Accord ought to do it without delay: it is in the interests of all Canadian men and women.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY WORK STOPPAGES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence Seaway work stoppages commenced today with the withdrawal of services by engineers. This is an indication that the two parties were unable to achieve an agreement acceptable to both sides.

We on this side of the House hope that the two sides will get back to the bargaining table to hammer out an agreement. We ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) to provide any assistance his Department can provide to ensure that a new collective agreement is negotiated.

We are also concerned about the growing trend across the country which insists that workers accept roll-back settlements even when there are profits. We believe that it is time for a

statement by the Government to indicate that a person who has been working for a certain wage for a certain length of time has a right to expect that type of guarantee of his income. We would like to hear a statement from the Government on this matter.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE—SUGGESTED TRANSFER TO GUELPH

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) has recognized the Guelph community as an important centre, if not the most important centre, for agriculture in Canada. By moving components of Agriculture Canada to Guelph the Minister has ensured a new stress on co-operation between the University of Guelph and his own associates.

Today I would like to make another suggestion to the Minister. That suggestion concerns the moving to Guelph of the Food Research Institute in order that it can co-operate more fully with industry in southern Ontario and with departments at the University of Guelph which have considerable strength in such areas as food science, animal science, nutrition, food processing, food engineering, and other areas.

Such a co-operative effort could not fail to benefit the food industry of Canada and the agricultural community in general.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology made what I would describe as an admission of ineffectiveness and incompetence on the part of his government. As reported in the *La Presse* newspaper, he indicated that he would have to make a clean sweep of all the efforts made before by the Department of Regional Economic Development. In other words, he blamed his two predecessors implying that these ministers did not know what they were doing and had failed to properly administer the Department. As a matter of fact, the new minister indicated that he would have to set the Department's budget in order.

Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat unusual to hear, three years after this government assumed power, a minister step forward and recognize the incompetence of his own government.

It was pretty obvious Mr. Speaker, on the basis of its actions day after day, that this government had no overall policy