

made in Canada by Canadians, and over the next years he will be able to fight to put back in the charter what we had in the original charter which his party combated tooth and nail for the past year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition asks me if we will make an honest attempt to seek some kind of compromise. We have been trying since Thursday. We have indicated to the Parti Québécois, the Quebec government, that we are willing to hear some words from them particularly on the mobility clause, as we got from Premier Peckford, which would answer the problem the Parti Québécois has with the charter as it is now presently conceived. We have not heard from them.

I just want to reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition that we have a duty to protect minorities, and we are trying to find a way to convince the government of Quebec that it should share in that duty of protecting minorities. I recall for the Leader of the Opposition that I believe it was less than a couple of months ago that he was speaking in Montreal and undertook to communicate with the Premier of Quebec to make sure that the government of Quebec would see its way clear in some way to protect the English-speaking minorities in Quebec. I wonder if he has since then communicated with the premier and if it would not be useful now for him to communicate with the Premier of Quebec to indicate his concern for these minorities, as he said he would a couple of months ago.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I find it rather strange that the Prime Minister should be putting questions to me, but I will not follow his practice; I will answer the question. The answer to the question is yes, I have.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

DETAILS OF ACCORD

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Timmins-Chapleau is the only empty barrel with a mustache in the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chénier: We want to keep you as leader, Joe.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, there is a great deal of heckling from the Liberal side, perhaps to stop questions about the equality of male and female persons. However, let me come back to the specific communiqué of the accord tabled in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister which says that there was agreement on the entrenchment of the full charter of rights and freedoms now before Parliament, with the following changes:

(b) A "notwithstanding" clause covering sections dealing with Fundamental Freedoms, Legal Rights and Equality Rights.

Oral Questions

The Prime Minister will recall that there was a deliberate effort made, when the original resolution was prepared, to put Section 28 in a separate section. That separate Section 28 is not referred to in the list of exceptions I have just quoted.

Is the Prime Minister telling us that the Government of Canada is now changing the accord which was signed by the Premiers? Are we going to have a resolution which has an opting-out or override clause applied to Section 28, when the accord did not have an opting-out or override clause applying to Section 28?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Madam Speaker, I am not saying that. The Government of Canada did not want to take anything out of the resolution which was before the House; nothing. We wish the Leader of the Opposition had supported it when it was here the first time, but I did say that the officials of the federal and provincial governments did meet on Thursday and Friday, and my understanding of that meeting is that this particular section would be subject to the "notwithstanding" clause.

Mr. Clark: That changes the accord.

Mr. Trudeau: Let me make it clear that everything in the charter now we would want to keep. Anything taken out is taken out because of the accord.

Mr. Clark: No.

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition says "No". I wish he would get hold of the nine premiers and get them to interpret the accord.

I can show a piece of paper too.

Miss MacDonald: Shame on you.

Mr. Trudeau: The lady from Kingston says "Shame". She did not support the charter when it was here.

Some hon. Members: Right on!

Mr. Trudeau: She did not support it when it gave absolute equality to the sexes. Hon. members opposite did not support it when it gave recognition to aboriginal rights.

As a result of the accord last week we have had to take certain things out, not because we wanted to take them out but because we were asked to take them out as the price of an agreement. I will not be saddled now with any weakness of the charter, which the party opposite refused to support and is now crying about because it does not appear in its entirety. They wanted a charter made in Canada. Let them sit down to work now and start making a charter in Canada. That means agreeing with the provinces that they should protect these people.

● (1440)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!