

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
FIRST MINISTERS

MANIT  BA

Speaking Notes  
For the  
Honourable Sterling Lyon

Ottawa  
October 30-November 1, 1978

PRIME MINISTER:

AS I WAS PREPARING FOR THIS MEETING ...  
I COULD NOT HELP BUT REMEMBER ANOTHER, EARLIER MEETING  
THAT BOTH YOU AND I ATTENDED ... ALTHOUGH OUR TITLES  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES WERE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THEN.

I AM SPEAKING OF THE HISTORIC "CONFERENCE  
ON THE CONSTITUTION" HELD HERE IN OTTAWA IN FEBRUARY,  
1968.

YOU ATTENDED THAT MEETING AS CANADA'S MINISTER  
OF JUSTICE. I WAS THERE AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR MANITOBA,  
AND OF THE 11 FIRST MINISTERS HERE TODAY ... I BELIEVE ONLY YOU AND  
I AND THE FIRST MINISTER OF ONTARIO ATTENDED THAT MEETING  
IN AN ELECTED CAPACITY.

AND IN REMEMBERING THAT EARLIER MEETING ... I  
COULD NOT HELP BUT ASK: ARE WE REALLY ANY FURTHER ALONG  
AFTER 10 YEARS? HAVE WE REALLY PROGRESSED IN THE MATTER  
OF OUR CONSTITUTION?

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS IN  
THE AFFIRMATIVE, PRIME MINISTER.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE TODAY A LESS PROMISING CLIMATE IN WHICH TO DELIBERATE ON OUR CONSTITUTION ...AND THAT THE ATTITUDES SURROUNDING THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION HAVE HARDENED.

THERE ARE SOME PARALLELS BETWEEN THAT CONFERENCE IN 1968 AND THIS ONE ... PARALLELS THAT I BELIEVE WE CAN BENEFIT FROM EXAMINING.

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROPOSALS PUT BEFORE THAT EARLIER MEETING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS THAT CANADA SHOULD ESTABLISH A "CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS" - A WRITTEN BILL OF RIGHTS SUCH AS ONE FINDS IN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, MANY COUNTRIES IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT MUCH RESPECTED IN PRACTICE - AND THAT THE CHARTER SHOULD BE ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT A LIST OF SO-CALLED "FUNDAMENTAL" RIGHTS FOR ALL TIME.

AND WHEN I RECALL PROVINCIAL RESPONSES OF NEARLY UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION TO THAT PROPOSAL ... I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL A SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU. THOSE RESPONSES WERE SIMILAR, IN SPIRIT AND IN CONTENT, TO THE RESPONSES EVOKED BY THE RENEWAL OF THAT PROPOSAL AND TO MUCH OF BILL C-60.

IT WAS SAID CLEARLY THAT THERE WAS NO ONE IN THAT CONFERENCE ROOM ... AS THERE IS NO ONE IN THIS CONFERENCE ROOM ... WHO WAS OPPOSED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR SOCIETY.

AND IT WAS SAID EQUALLY CLEARLY - BY THE THEN PREMIER OF ALBERTA, SENATOR ERNEST MANNING, AMONG OTHERS - THAT THE PEOPLE OF CANADA ALREADY ENJOYED AND WERE ASSURED OF MORE RIGHTS THAN COULD BE ENCOMPASSED IN ANY LIST.

THERE WAS A SENSE IN THAT CONFERENCE ROOM IN 1968 ... PRIME MINISTER ... THAT HOWEVER CHARMING OR FASHIONABLE SOME SORT OF CHARTER OF RIGHTS MIGHT BE ... THAT IT ADDRESSED NONE OF OUR URGENT PROBLEMS OR OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA ... THAT IT HAD ESSENTIALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH US OR WITH OUR HISTORY AS A NATION - AND INDEED THAT IT SUBVERTED THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT. AT THIS STAGE IN OUR SUCCESSFUL HISTORY OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, 10 YEARS LATER IS IT NOT EQUALLY APPARENT THAT TO TRANSFER, EVEN PARTIALLY, OUR TRADITIONAL LAW-MAKING FUNCTION FROM THE PEOPLE TO THE APPOINTED WOULD BE IRRATIONAL?

... THAT CURIOUS, MECHANISTIC, LEGALISTIC HABIT OF THOUGHT THAT LED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUGGEST A CHARTER OF RIGHTS IN 1968 RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO ANY OF OUR PROBLEMS-IS BORN AGAIN . . . IN BILL C-60.

AND ... IN THE SUMMARY PAPER OF "A TIME FOR ACTION" ... OUR CURRENT CONSTITUTION IS DISMISSED BECAUSE ... AND I QUOTE ... "IT HAS LITTLE EDUCATIVE VALUE AND CANADIANS FIND IN IT LITTLE WHICH INSPIRES PATRIOTISM". ONE WONDERS WHAT KIND OF STERILE MIND-OBLIVIOUS TO AND UNREPRESENTATIVE OF CANADIAN ACHIEVEMENTS - CONCOCTED SUCH AN OBSERVATION. IN THE FACE OF SUCH DISTORTIONS OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT, I FEEL OBLIGED TO SPEAK FOR A MOMENT, PRIME MINISTER, TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR HISTORY AND OUR INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA.

IT IS IMPORTANT AS NEVER BEFORE FOR US TO LOOK LONG AND HARD AT WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AS WE WORK TO DECIDE WHERE WE OUGHT TO GO NEXT.

WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED IN THE 1860'S ... THERE WAS A CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY THOSE INSPIRED CANADIANS ... THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION ... TO INCORPORATE INTO THE VERY FIBRE OF THE NEW NATION ATTITUDES AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAD PROVEN THEMSELVES ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ORDER AND PROSPERITY OF THE COMMUNITY ... TO OFFER EFFECTIVE PROTECTIONS FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS ... AND TO ATTRACT AND SUSTAIN THE LOYALTY OF THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP OUR NATION.

THESE INSTITUTIONS BEGAN WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WHICH WAS VIEWED AS THE FOUNT OF HONOUR AS WELL AS THE FOCUS OF CONTINUITY AND LOYALTY FOR CANADIANS. THEY ENCOMPASSED THE COURTS AND THE COMMON LAW. IN QUEBEC ... WHERE THERE WAS AN UNBROKEN TRADITION OF CIVIL LAW JURISDICTION ... THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION WISELY SAW NO VIRTUE IN DISCONTINUITY ... AND SO THE CIVIL LAW REMAINS.

THE TRADITIONAL CABINET SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WAS ADAPTED - SUCCESSFULLY - TO THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT. WE EVOLVED CERTAIN PECULIARLY CANADIAN CONVENTIONS TO ASSURE A BALANCED REPRESENTATION OF GEOGRAPHIC AND LINGUISTIC GROUPS IN THE FEDERAL CABINET.

AND FOR THE MORE THAN A CENTURY THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS EXISTED, THOSE INSTITUTIONS HAVE SERVED US WELL.

THAT SET OF PRACTISES AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH ... ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY PAPER ... "HAS LITTLE EDUCATIVE VALUE" AND "LITTLE WHICH INSPIRES PATRIOTISM" ... PROVIDED US WITH THE FRAMEWORK THAT SAW OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE THROUGH THE TWO GREAT WARS OF THIS CENTURY IN WHICH LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN FOUGHT AND RISKED AND SUFFERED.

ALTHOUGH THE BUREAUCRATS WHO WROTE THE SUMMARY MAY SEE LITTLE HERE TO INSPIRE PATRIOTISM ... THOSE PEOPLE WHO SERVED CANADA IN TWO WORLD WARS BELIEVED THEY DID SO TO PRESERVE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY. SURELY THEY HAVE EARNED THE GRATITUDE AND RESPECT OF CANADA AND ITS GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE CERTAINLY EARNED AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR STEADFAST COURAGE IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING AND DEATH.

I WOULD SAY, PRIME MINISTER, THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THOSE WHO WROTE THE SUMMARIES WERE CAUSED TO LEARN SOMETHING OF THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION AND OF THE SACRIFICES THAT THOUSANDS HAVE MADE FOR IT, TO SAY NOTHING OF THOSE SENTIMENTS AND LOYALTIES WHICH ANIMATE ORDINARY PEOPLE IN CANADA TODAY.

AND I WOULD SAY TO YOU THAT WE HAVE HAD IN CANADA A PROUD TRADITION ... EVOLVED FROM THE MOTHER COUNTRIES OF OUR TWO FOUNDING RACES ... ENRICHED BY ADDITIONS BROUGHT BY OTHER PEOPLES WHO HAVE COME TO JOIN US.

WE HAVE AN EFFECTIVE AND ADMIRABLE SET OF INSTITUTIONS. WE HAVE PROUD RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN BOTH PEACE AND WAR.

BUT THE CURRENT PROPOSALS OFFERED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THESE TRADITIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN TIRESOME ENCUMBRANCES THAT MUST BE REMOVED TO PERMIT US TO ESTABLISH SOMETHING "DISTINCTIVELY CANADIAN". I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AFTER 100 YEARS AND MORE OF SHARED EXPERIENCE IN THIS COUNTRY ... WE HAVE MADE OF OUR INSTITUTIONS SOMETHING DISTINCTIVELY OUR OWN.

PRIME MINISTER ... THERE IS NO ONE AT THIS TABLE WHO DOES NOT AGREE: IT IS URGENT THAT WE IMPROVE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CANADA.

BUT I SUSPECT THAT THERE IS NO ONE AT THIS TABLE WHO WOULD SAY THAT BILL C-60 MAKES ANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THAT END.



SPEAKING FOR MANITOBA, PRIME MINISTER, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE ANY WAY THAT THE "HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION" WILL DEAL WITH THE CRITICAL QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS. WE DO NOT SEE THAT CHANGING THE HISTORIC AND ACCEPTABLE NAME OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL WILL BRING US CLOSER TO AN ACCEPTABLE AMENDING FORMULA FOR OUR CONSTITUTION. WE CAN SEE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PROPOSED TINKERING WITH THE MONARCH'S ROLE AND THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS OF TAXATION IN CANADA.

AND WE SEE NO WAY IN WHICH ESTABLISHING THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AS A FEDERAL PRE-CONDITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IS IN THE LEAST HELPFUL IN ACHIEVING A GENUINE CONSENSUS. INDEED IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ABANDON THAT IRRELEVANT CONDITION - NOW AT THIS TABLE - IT WOULD DO MUCH TO CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR CONSENSUS. AND IN ABANDONING THE CONCEPT OF THE CHARTER, WE WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO CONSIDER WHAT AMENDMENTS ARE APPROPRIATE TO S.133 TO REFLECT THE REALITY OF LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN CANADA TODAY.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE ... I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE NEW BEGINNING IN THAT IMPORTANT PROCESS AT THIS MEETING.

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE ... EMANATING FROM THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS. WHILE THESE SUGGESTIONS AND OTHERS WHICH WILL EMERGE ARE HELPFUL, WHAT WE MOST NEED NOW IS A CONSENSUS AS TO THE PRIORITY OF THE ITEMS WE OUGHT TO DEAL WITH AND THE MECHANICS OF THE PROCESS WE SHOULD FOLLOW IN DEALING WITH THEM.

IN 1976 THE PREMIERS REACHED A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS ABOUT ELEMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENT. THOSE MIGHT SERVE AS ONE STARTING POINT FOR THE PROCESS.

BUT IT SEEMS TO ME IT IS CRITICAL TO SET FORTH OUR PRIORITIES PLAINLY ... AND IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME THAT THE PRIORITIES WE OUGHT TO FOLLOW ARE RELATIVELY CLEAR.

OF FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE QUESTIONS OF THE REDISTRIBUTION OF POWERS ... AND OF AN ACCEPTABLE AMENDING FORMULA. AS I MENTIONED ... THE PREMIERS WERE ABLE TO REACH SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT - EVEN ON MANY OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES ... AND I BELIEVE THAT IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS ... WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BEGIN TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES.

AND WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO SO RECOGNIZING SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT MUST APPLY.

THE FIRST OF THESE MUST BE THAT THERE IS NO PLACE IN THIS PROCESS FOR UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHED DEADLINES. WE ARE AS MINDFUL AS YOU, PRIME MINISTER, THAT OUR COLLEAGUE THE PREMIER OF QUEBEC, IS PLANNING TO HOLD HIS REFERENDUM IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. WE ARE AS DETERMINED AS YOU TO SHOW EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

BUT THE TIME IS PAST ... IF EVER IT EXISTED IN THIS COUNTRY ... WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD UNILATERALLY DIRECT THE CONTENT OR SCHEDULE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. THERE IS NO MAGIC IN THE DATE OF JULY 1, 1979 THAT MANITOBANS ARE AWARE OF.

AND I THINK WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PROCESS WILL NOT RESULT IN INSTANT ANSWERS. OUR EXPECTATIONS OF AND OUR CLAIMS ABOUT THE PROCESS MUST BE REALISTIC. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT AS THE END OF A PARLIAMENT OR LEGISLATURE DRAWS NEAR, THE AUTHORITY OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NEW OR RADICAL INITIATIVES DIMINISHES PERCEPTIBLY.

SECONDLY ... AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE ... WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE TRADITIONS OF THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE IGNORED OR DENIGRATED IN THE PROCESS.

FINALLY, PRIME MINISTER, I THINK WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WE ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE HAVE, IN WORLD TERMS, BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN PRACTICE. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THERE MUST BE A VERY HEAVY ONUS ON THOSE WHO ADVOCATE CHANGE TO JUSTIFY IT.

LET ME SUMMARIZE.

I AM SUGGESTING THAT THERE ARE 5 BASIC STEPS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE TO PUT THIS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF CONSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENT ON A SOUND AND PROMISING BASIS.

FIRST - LET US AGREE THAT THE EXERCISE WE ARE BEGINNING AGAIN AT THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT AN EXERCISE IN REPLACING A CONSTITUTION. IT IS AN EXERCISE IN IMPROVING A CONSTITUTION - A CONSTITUTION THAT HAS PROVEN OVER 100 YEARS AND MORE THAT IT WORKS AND WORKS WELL.

SECONDLY - LET US BEGIN REASONABLY BY DECIDING HERE AT THIS CONFERENCE WHICH AREAS OF THAT BASICALLY SOUND AND SUCCESSFUL CONSTITUTION REQUIRE CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT URGENTLY. LET US PICK THOSE MATTERS THAT WE CAN AGREE MUST BE CHANGED.

THIRDLY - HAVING SELECTED THESE PRIORITIES ... LET US GO THROUGH THE GREAT MASS OF SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE ACCUMULATED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS ... AND LET US ... SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF ... AND LET US SEE WHAT CAN APPLY OR CAN BE ADAPTED TO APPLY TO OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS AND OUR CURRENT ASPIRATIONS.

FOURTHLY - LET US REMEMBER THAT ... UNTIL WE HAVE AGREED ON A PROCEDURE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF OUR CONSTITUTION ... WE CAN DO NOTHING. LET US ENSURE THAT THAT IS TREATED AS A CONCURRENT PRIORITY IN THE PROCESS.

FIFTHLY - AND FINALLY - LET US AGREE THAT WE WILL PUT ASIDE ITEMS WHICH DO NOT MEET THE TEST OF URGENCY OR OF GENERAL CONSENSUS AND SUPPORT.

THAT SIMPLE SERIES OF STEPS, PRIME MINISTER, CAN BE ACHIEVED HERE AT THIS CONFERENCE. AND IF WE DO ACHIEVE THAT ... IF WE DO SET OUR PRIORITIES ... IF WE IDENTIFY THE GENERAL AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN INDICATED ... IF WE ESTABLISH MOMENTUM TOWARDS AN

AMENDING PROCESS ... AND IF WE AGREE NOT TO PROCEED ON PERIPHERAL OR SECONDARY ISSUES THAT CAN ONLY SERVE TO DIVIDE US ... IF WE CAN DO THIS WITH A SENSE OF THE VALUE OF THE CONSTITUTION WE ARE STRIVING TO IMPROVE ... I BELIEVE WE SHALL HAVE TAKEN A FIRMER AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL STEP TOWARDS SUCCESS THAN CANADIANS ARE USED TO SEEING FROM GATHERINGS OF THIS SORT.

AND I WOULD SAY THAT ONLY WE CAN SET THE PRIORITIES. THESE ARE MATTERS THAT MUST BE DECIDED - NOT BY OFFICIALS OR EXPERTS - BUT BY THE PEOPLE CANADIANS HAVE ELECTED TO RUN THEIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. AFTER WE HAVE TAKEN THESE PRELIMINARY STEPS ... THEN THE REST OF THE MECHANISMS - THE MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND OF OFFICIALS ... THE RESEARCH AND THE ANALYSIS ... THE DETAILED APPRAISALS OF ALL FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL PROPOSALS - THOSE CAN ALL GO FORWARD.

BUT AS LEADERS OF OUR GOVERNMENTS ... WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TAKE THESE FIRST STEPS.

PRIME MINISTER, WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE MATTERS RAISED IN BILL C-60 DURING THIS CONFERENCE.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ... I WOULD SAY TO YOU THAT MANITOBA IS READY TO RENEW OUR OWN PARTICIPATION IN THE SERIOUS PROCESS WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING. WE ARE PREPARED TO BEGIN AGAIN TO WORK TO FIND ANSWERS FOR THE GREATEST AND MOST URGENT PROBLEMS THAT FACE US. WE BRING ... AND WE SENSE AMONG OUR PEOPLE ... A RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL OTHER CANADIANS. ON THE BASIS OF THAT GOOD WILL ... I BELIEVE WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL.

AT THIS GATHERING WE WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ANY NEW PROPOSALS YOU MAY HAVE. WE WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE DETAILED SUBMISSIONS THAT SOME OF OUR SISTER PROVINCES WILL BE PUTTING FORWARD. WE UNDERTAKE TO BRING THAT INFORMATION BACK TO MANITOBA AND TO ASSURE ITS FULL AND COMPLETE DISCUSSION IN OUR OWN LEGISLATURE. WE WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THESE DISCUSSIONS AND IN THOSE THAT WE HOPE WILL FOLLOW.

I WOULD STRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MANITOBA ARE AS VITALLY INTERESTED AS I KNOW YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT ARE IN MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF OUR COUNTRY. WE WILL HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON VARIOUS PRIORITIES AND ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. BUT THOSE DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS DETRACTING IN ANY WAY FROM OUR FUNDAMENTAL AIM OF WORKING OUT A SOUND CONSENSUS AMONG THE ELEVEN

GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TABLE ... AND OF ACHIEVING THE KIND OF CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION NECESSARY TO OUR CONTINUED UNITY.

I BEGAN BY SPEAKING OF THAT 1968 CONFERENCE THAT YOU AND I BOTH ATTENDED, AND THERE IS ONE OTHER THING ABOUT THAT CONFERENCE THAT I THINK WE CAN USEFULLY RECALL. I THINK IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THE GENERAL MOOD AND ATTITUDE OF THAT CONFERENCE AND OF OUR COUNTRY IN THAT YEAR - THE YEAR FOLLOWING OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. IT WAS A MOOD OF OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE.

AND THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE AT THAT CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF MUTUAL TRUST AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED THERE.

AT THIS CONFERENCE ... AND IN THE CONTINUING PROCESS THAT I HOPE WILL ARISE FROM THIS CONFERENCE ... WE MUST STRIVE TO RECAPTURE THAT MOOD OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM. WE MUST WORK TO REBUILD THAT SENSE OF TRUST AMONG OUR GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA.

AND WE MUST DEMONSTRATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACT THAT CONSTITUTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE



ONLY A MEANS TO THE END OF MAINTAINING A STABLE, ORDERED,  
PROSPEROUS AND FREE SOCIETY.

WE WILL MEET IN ABOUT ONE MONTH'S TIME TO DISCUSS  
THE ECONOMY OF CANADA ... AND I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU  
PRIME MINISTER THAT THESE TWO CONFERENCES ARE CLOSELY RELATED.  
INDEED IN THE MINDS OF MOST CANADIANS, THE PROBLEMS OF OUR  
ECONOMY - OF RISING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT - TAKE PRECEDENCE  
OVER MOST OF WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING TODAY.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF CANADA ARE LIVING INSTITUTIONS.  
THE CONSTITUTIONAL RULES WE SPEAK OF CHANGING HAVE PROVIDED  
US WITH THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE HAVE EVOLVED A  
REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL NATION ... AND A REMARKABLY RESILIENT  
COMMUNITY.

IN THE PROCESS THAT I HOPE WILL GROW FROM THIS  
CONFERENCE ... WE HAVE A STRONG FOUNDATION UPON WHICH  
TO BUILD. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THE KINDS OF  
IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE NEEDED TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR  
UNITY AND THE GENERAL WELFARE OF OUR NATIONAL COMMUNITY.