

CONTINUING COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

ON THE CONSTITUTION

NOVA SCOTIA'S POSITION

ON

EQUALIZATION

BY

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MONTREAL, CANADA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980

THE NOVA SCOTIA POSITION HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY AND REMAINS THAT THE EQUALIZATION PROCESS SHOULD BE INTRINSIC TO THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. ALL PARTIES HERE AGREE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALIZATION AND THE CONTINUATION OF THESE PAYMENTS. THE "BEST EFFORTS" DRAFT IS OUR POSITION ON EXPRESSING IT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST OBVIOUSLY RETAIN SUFFICIENT POWER, AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES TO AFFECT THE CONTINUATION OF TRANSFER PAYMENTS AT A NATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. THE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA IS ALSO THAT THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA MUST DERIVE SUFFICIENT ADVANTAGE FROM ALL OF ITS RESOURCES' SO THAT WE WILL BECOME LESS DEPENDENT UPON EQUALIZATION AND MOVE IN THE DIRECTION WHERE THE EQUALIZATION PROCESS WOULD PROVIDE FOR A TRANSFER OUTWARD FROM NOVA SCOTIA TO OTHER PARTS OF CANADA. THIS PREMISES THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESOURCES, PERHAPS TO THE POINT WHERE WE CEASE BEING A HAVE NOT PROVINCE. THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA TAKES NO PRIDE IN BEING A RECIPIENT OF TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FEELS THAT IT MAY ONLY ACHIEVE FULL SELF-RESPONSIBILITY AS A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UNIT, IF IT IS ABLE TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF ITS OWN RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE OFFSHORE.