

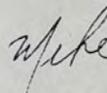
October 10, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Constitution Debate: Requested Material

The background and briefing materials you requested have been assembled in the attached binder. Its contents are summarized in the Index.

Also enclosed in the binder is a copy of the CICS Collation of Proposals on the Constitution which you may find to be a useful reference document to have on hand at this time.



Michael J.L. Kirby

c.c. Mr. Pitfield
Mr. Smith
Mr. B. Dewar
Mr. Kirby
Mr. Demers
Mr. MacKinnon
PCO Files
FPRO Files
Diary (1)

Mr. Coutts
Mr. Axworthy
Joyce Fairbairn
Peggy Dillman
PMO Files

B. Darling/slb

BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON
CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL

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4. QUEBEC AND THE QUESTION OF A
VETO IN THE AMENDING FORMULA

October 10, 1980

Québec and the Question of a Veto
in the Amending Formula

There is not much material readily available which records the views of the various provinces on the question of a veto. A search in the Archives would undoubtedly produce more, but in the time at our disposition we have had to rely on sources more rapidly attainable.

The first major development for which we have material on hand is the creation of the Fulton-Favreau formula. It is reasonable to assume that Quebec sought a veto during the earlier attempts at finding a formula, and this would certainly have been the approach of M. Duplessis in 1950. During the 1960-64 discussions which led to the Fulton-Favreau formula, it is quite certain that Quebec sought a veto for itself. We do not have a record of what the other provinces said during this process, but the result is clear: all of them accepted a very rigid formula in which each of them would have had a veto on all important changes affecting the provinces. There are suggestions that some provinces accepted this rigidity with reluctance, but we have no evidence at the moment.

Moving into the 1960-64 discussions, Quebec government spokesmen would have been imbued with the "fortress Quebec" concept and a veto would have been all important. Not much thought was wasted on the chance of greater powers being given to Quebec. By 1964, however, the Quebec government was under increasing pressure to seek greater power, and becoming increasingly disposed to do so. A rigid formula would protect existing powers, but make it harder to obtain new ones. The ideal of a veto for Quebec, but not for the rest, was unattainable. The government hesitated, then accepted Fulton-Favreau in 1964, and finally rejected it early in 1966 - because it stood in the way of greater powers for Quebec in the future.

In the 1968-71 negotiations, there was still no pressure from any province but Quebec for added powers, and some disposition to find a new and less rigid formula than Fulton-Favreau. In the development of the Victoria formula, it is our recollection that Quebec sought a veto and that Ontario received one without pressing for it. Whether Ontario would have insisted is a moot point.

At the Victoria Conference in 1971, the British Columbia government sought and obtained a kind of partial veto for itself by the addition of the requirement that if only two Western provinces supported an amendment, they would have to contain 50% of the regional population. B.C. would, of course, have to be one of those two. During the renewed discussions of 1975-76, Saskatchewan objected to this 50% provision, and Alberta moved away from the Victoria formula altogether, looking towards an arrangement under which each province could protect its resources and jurisdiction against amendments agreed to by others. At the same time, B.C. decided to press for "fifth region" status and a full veto of its own under a Victoria type formula.

During preparations for the October 1978 Constitutional Conference, British Columbia confirmed its new approach in a publication issued in September. Alberta produced its booklet in October, for the Conference, and argued that all provinces should have a veto against the taking away of their "existing rights, proprietary interests or jurisdiction". During the October to January sessions, Alberta argued for a straight mathematical formula with "opting out" for each province - the kind of approach which reappears in the Vancouver consensus of 1980. Only Newfoundland directly supported Alberta in 1978-79. It could be said, therefore, that in the 1978-79 discussions, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland sought some kind of veto or opting out, while other governments favoured various other and more flexible approaches (but ones under which Ontario and Quebec would have received a veto in any case).

During the July-September 1980 discussions, the same four provinces led the way in seeking a formula which would give them a veto or opting out. In the event, they persuaded the others to go along with them in the Vancouver formula, although the support of some (e.g., Ontario) was probably conditional upon an agreement being reached on an overall package. At the CCMC meeting in Ottawa in August 1980, Claude Morin explained that Quebec had accepted the Vancouver formula because the province had felt badly in 1966 and again in 1971 when it had felt forced to act as the spoiler in rejecting Fulton-Favreau and then Victoria, and the new Vancouver formula would let the rest of the country do what it wanted, while Quebec could protect its interests. He did not go on to note that the formula came pretty close to Quebec's ideal: one in which it could veto the application of any amendment to itself, but take advantage of a flexible formula when it wished to persuade others to change powers to its advantage.

RADIO-TV NEWS Monitoring Service

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CLAUDE RYAN'S PROPOSALS "THOROUGHLY DESTRUCTIVE"

7. ANALYSIS BY SENATOR EUGENE FORSEY
OF THE BEIGE PAPER

FORSEY:- Good morning.

- A. Transcript from Daybreak, CBC Radio, January 10, 1980
- B. Notes on the Ryan Proposals; "A New Canadian Federation": Part I
- C. Notes on the Ryan Proposals; "A New Canadian Federation": Part II: Details

McKELWAIN:- Now, wait. In this point we have heard former Prime Minister Trudeau call it a valuable document, we have heard Mr. Corbett, the critic for interprovincial relations for Federal-provincial relations for the Liberals say it's a fresh approach. You say it's destructive.

FORSEY:- Utterly destructive. Fresh approach is good, but it would leave almost nothing that you could properly call a country. It would just be a sort of loose association of states for certain purposes where they found it convenient to have some kind of authority that could do something for them rather more easily and cheaply than they could do it themselves.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL

8. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED
RESOLUTION AND THE BEIGE PAPER

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED
RESOLUTION AND THE BEIGE PAPER

Generally, with the exception of unilateral federal action on patriation, all the elements of the proposed resolution are consistent with the proposals of the Beige Paper. The proposals of the latter document of course cover a broader range than does the proposed resolution and are more comprehensive in character and, in some cases go further than does the resolution.

The attached copy of Chapter 1 from the Beige Paper outlines the basic objectives of the reforms it proposes. The flagged items indicate the proposals for the entrenchment of fundamental rights and freedoms, linguistic and other rights, and equality of opportunity.

CHAPITRE 1

Les objectifs de la réforme constitutionnelle

Avant d'entreprendre la révision constitutionnelle, il importera de s'entendre sur les objectifs qu'elle doit poursuivre. Le changement poursuivi pour lui-même, comme fin en soi, n'est pas nécessairement souhaitable. Lorsque les structures fondamentales d'un pays sont en cause, on ne peut ouvrir la porte au changement qu'après avoir précisé le plus clairement possible ce que l'on entend accomplir.

À la lumière de l'expérience des vingt dernières années et de tout ce qui s'est dit et écrit sur le sujet, il paraît davantage possible aujourd'hui de définir les objectifs de l'oeuvre

de révision constitutionnelle que nous envisageons. Nous établirions comme suit les objectifs de l'entreprise:

1) Il faut viser à procurer au peuple de ce pays un document constitutionnel écrit, moderne, canadien. Le document devra avoir un caractère solennel et officiel. Il définira l'engagement que nous aurons contracté de vivre ensemble dans l'avenir. Il devra aussi être l'expression d'un accord explicite, entre les communautés qui forment ce pays. Au texte constitutionnel actuel, on a reproché d'avoir tiré son origine d'une volonté étrangère et de n'avoir jamais reçu au Canada

même la sanction populaire. Cette hypothèque devra être levée à l'occasion de la mise au point d'un nouveau texte constitutionnel.

2) Il faut affirmer l'égalité foncière des deux peuples fondateurs qui ont donné et confèrent encore à ce pays sa place originale dans la famille des peuples. Il faut consacrer dans la loi fondamentale du pays la dualité foncière de celui-ci. Cet objectif se réalisera:

a) par la proclamation dans le texte constitutionnel de certains droits linguistiques fondamentaux qui devront être assurés également aux francophones et aux anglophones à travers tout le pays;

b) par l'octroi au Québec de garanties propres à faciliter la protection et l'affirmation de sa personnalité distincte. Ces garanties ne devront pas se confiner étroitement au seul champ de la politique culturelle. Elles ne devront pas, par contre, contredire le principe suivant lequel tous les partenaires doivent être fondamentalement égaux au sein de la fédération.

3) Il faut assurer la primauté juridique des droits et libertés fondamentaux des citoyens dans le système politique canadien. En cette ère d'affirmation et de mise en valeur des droits collectifs et des solutions collectives, il faut plus que jamais affirmer la primauté radicale des personnes ainsi que leur souveraine autonomie devant les pouvoirs. Cela demande que les droits et libertés des personnes soient garantis dans la constitution elle-même et non seulement dans des textes statutaires.

4) Il faut affirmer et reconnaître loyalement les droits fondamentaux des peuples qui ont été les premiers habitants de ce pays.

5) Il faut affirmer la richesse des patrimoines culturels régionaux et l'intérêt qu'il y a pour le Canada à les préserver et à les développer. Il faut de même affirmer la richesse de l'apport culturel, économique et social fourni par les groupes ethniques et affirmer le droit de ceux-ci à la préservation et à la culture de leur héritage propre.

6) Il faut viser à assurer l'égalité des chances pour les individus, les provinces et les régions dans l'accès au développement économique, social et culturel. L'objectif de l'égalité des chances doit être l'une des assises de tout l'édifice. Tout en rappelant les responsabilités des gouvernements provinciaux à cet égard, il

faudra aussi réaffirmer avec vigueur le rôle irremplaçable du gouvernement fédéral dans la redistribution de la richesse et lui laisser en conséquence la latitude nécessaire pour qu'il puisse s'acquitter efficacement de ses responsabilités.

7) Il faut maintenir au Canada un système fédéral de gouvernement dont les éléments principaux seront:

a) l'existence de deux ordres de gouvernement, chacun étant souverain dans son ordre de compétence et tirant tous deux leur autorité du suffrage direct et universel;

b) une union économique permettant la libre circulation des personnes, des biens et des capitaux à travers tout le territoire;

c) un système de lois garantissant l'égalité fondamentale des citoyens entre eux et devant les corps publics;

d) un système d'arbitrage des litiges constitutionnels accepté de tous les partenaires;

e) la mise en place de mécanismes intergouvernementaux permettant d'aménager la collaboration et la participation des provinces au gouvernement de la fédération;

8) Il faut assurer l'existence au service de tout le pays d'un pouvoir central assez fort pour être en mesure de faire face aux défis nouveaux que pose le monde actuel, tant au plan interne qu'au plan externe. Les tâches majeures de ce gouvernement seront de gérer l'espace économique commun, d'assurer la bonne marche de politiques nationales dans le domaine de l'industrie et du commerce, d'assurer une redistribution raisonnable de la richesse entre les provinces et entre les individus, d'agir au nom de tout le pays dans les affaires reliées à la poursuite de la paix et à la défense du territoire.

9) Il faut assurer l'existence de pouvoirs provinciaux assez forts qui soient en mesure de prendre en charge, sur leur territoire respectif, les tâches reliées au développement de leurs ressources physiques et humaines. Cela impliquera entre autres la prise en charge des ressources naturelles, de l'aménagement du territoire, du commerce local et provincial, du développement économique régional, de l'éducation et de la culture, des services sociaux et sanitaires, de l'administration de la justice, des régimes d'assurance sociale.

10) Il faut viser à établir un partage clair des responsabilités législatives et fiscales entre les deux ordres de gouvernement. Il faut de même viser à éliminer les pouvoirs fédéraux trop généraux qui se prêtent à une extension presque illimitée et dont l'usage abusif, l'expérience canadienne l'a montré, finit par exercer un effet corrosif sur l'esprit fédéral et sur la substance même du régime. Le partage des pouvoirs doit être fondé sur le double principe de l'égalité et de la souveraineté de chaque ordre de gouvernement dans son champ de compétence.

11) Il faut viser, tout en respectant les droits acquis de chaque province, à assurer que la disproportion très grande dans la taille des États-membres de la fédération pourra être soit corrigée ou à tout le moins atténuée par des groupements de services. Il faut assurer en tout cas que la faible taille de certaines provinces ne servira plus de prétexte à un arbitrage arbitraire et circonstanciel du champ de compétence du pouvoir fédéral.

12) Il faut établir un système d'arbitrage des litiges constitutionnels qui tienne compte de la dualité fondamentale de la population et des institutions juridiques dans ce pays et qui soit au-dessus de tout soupçon. L'actuelle Cour suprême fournit à cet égard un fondement très respectable. Mais il y aura lieu de faire en sorte qu'elle se dote, pour l'examen des causes à caractère constitutionnel, de modes de fonctionnement encore davantage modelés sur la réalité fondamentale du pays.

13) Il faut viser à reconnaître dans le texte constitutionnel que, dans pratiquement tous les domaines, l'action des pouvoirs publics débouche aujourd'hui sur des prolongements internationaux que favorise grandement la révolution des communications. Il faudra affirmer dans ce secteur la nécessité d'harmoniser les initiatives provinciales avec les orientations générales de la politique étrangère du Canada. Mais il faudra rédiger cette partie du texte constitutionnel de manière qu'il reconnaisse une liberté réelle aux provinces dans les activités internationales qui se situent en prolongement de leurs compétences reconnues.

11. MAIN POINTS RAISED BY THE OPPOSITION
DURING THE CONSTITUTION DEBATE TO DATE

October 10, 1980

Major Issues raised in
the House of Commons

1. Section 42

The Tories, and Mr. Clark in particular, have made the government's right to hold a referendum without any provincial agreement the major thrust of their attack. The NDP (Nystrom) have associated themselves with the Tories, but have not given the issue a very high profile.

2. Unilateral Action

This issue is linked to section 42 and taken as evidence of a government intention to move toward a unitary state. There are, however, indications that the opposition has accepted unilateral action as inevitable. The NDP have not made much of this point.

3. Resources

The NDP (Broadbent) have clearly established entrenchment of provincial ownership of resources as the price of their support.

Specifically, he sought:

- entrenchment of provincial ownership
- indirect taxation of resources
- provincial concurrency with full federal paramourncy in interprovincial trade.

As noted above Nystrom added section 42 and yesterday Kristiansen (NDP, Kootenay West) listed the following as "non-negotiable":

- recognition of provincial ownership of resources, including offshore resources
- the provincial right to indirect taxation of resources
- entrenchment of concurrency with federal paramourncy in interprovincial and international trade.

It seems likely that the NDP will finally settle for less than all of that.

4. Mobility Rights

McGrath raised this matter, saying that he wished that he, as a Newfoundlander, could "afford the luxury" of full mobility rights.

5. Minority Language Education Rights

Two different points have been made. English-speaking members question why the courts are to decide "where numbers warrant" in the case of education rights, whereas the government is to decide "where numbers warrant" in the case of federal government services.

French-speaking members are more concerned about the effects of the section on immigration into Quebec. For example, an Italian settles in Toronto, sends his children to an English school, becomes a citizen and moves to Quebec where he can continue to send his children to English schools.

6. Equalization

A number of opposition spokesmen would prefer a formulation that would specify that equalization payments would be made to governments.

7. Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Tories are continuing the debate of the pros and cons of entrenchment, preferring the English common law and parliamentary democracy as guardian of rights to the courts as in the United States.

8. Unique Advantage Enjoyed by
the Present Prime Minister

The Prime Minister claims that he can move unilaterally and has so arranged matters that no future Prime Minister will be able to do so under the amending procedures provided in the Resolution.

12. MAJOR STATEMENTS MADE OUTSIDE
PARLIAMENT ON THE PROPOSED
RESOLUTION

- A. Provincial Reaction
- B. Reactions de Certains Organismes

Update of Provincial Reactions to Constitutional Proposals

October 7, 1980

Alberta

In a speech during a Cabinet tour of central Alberta Monday, Premier Lougheed accused the federal government of trying to take away Alberta's resources, its wealth and its status as a province.

He said the government will make its first grab with the budget and strengthen its position by changing the constitution.

"We played by the rules of Confederation for 75 years. Now when we're winning for a short period of time they're trying to change the rules...We intend to resist, as strongly as we can, any view of making this province or other provinces second-class provinces." (CP)

Saskatchewan

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Roy Romanow said Monday that he doubts the Saskatchewan government will proceed with an advertising campaign related to constitutional change. After an NDP caucus meeting in August, that was attended by some federal NDP member of Parliament, plans had been made to finance an advertising campaign to outline the province's position on constitutional reform.

Romanow said the move on advertising now would "imply a level of opposition to the federal package we may not want to take... Advertising is a tool for fighting and it is a question now of what degree you want to fight." (CP)

Manitoba

Premier Sterling Lyon, this year's chairman of the Premiers' Conference said Monday that October 14, 15 and 16 are being considered for a Premiers' meeting on federal plans for the constitution, to be held in Toronto.

Ontario

Premier Davis called for "reasoned debate" among politicians in a speech to the Legislature on its first day of the fall session Monday. "There is every reason to expect that the government of Canada is open to suggestions that are reasonable

and fair-minded with respect to any amendments emanating from the Premiers or elsewhere in good faith. There are no villains in this undertaking."

Davis stressed that patriation of the BNA Act and some reforms are essential and added that "to do nothing at this point, would be to admit a victory for those who say this nation is unworkable."

A CP report noted that Monday's speech did not contain an appeal made Friday to members of all federal parties to put aside political affiliations and consider first Canada's needs, interpreted as an appeal to members of the PC Party to override the wishes of Leader Joe Clark. Davis had refused to comment on Mr. Clark's position on Friday.

UPDATE OF PROVINCIAL REACTIONS TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

October 8, 1980

NOVA SCOTIA

Premier Buchanan said yesterday that the provinces have no right to lobby the British Parliament on the patriation of the constitution, but added that his administration will challenge Ottawa in the courts if necessary to protect the province's economic rights.

"When you boil it all down," Buchanan said, "I'm afraid that Mr. Trudeau has set aside the very important questions confronting our country today. We must at the same time make sure that the federal government exercises their powers under what they themselves have called an agreeable formula and that must be unanimity...We believe that we should have patriation, but with an agreeable amending formula. We are ready to accommodate them to that end."

Buchanan added that he will discuss the issue further with his Cabinet before giving a more definitive statement. (Chronicle-Herald, Oct. 7)

QUEBEC

Quebec MP Jean Lapierre (L-Shefford) said Tuesday the proposed constitutional charter of rights needs an amendment to prevent new Canadians in Quebec from sending their children to English-language schools. Under the constitutional proposal, an immigrant could send his children to English-language elementary and secondary schools, once he became a Canadian citizen.

Lapierre said he had no objection to giving Canadians from other provinces the right to English language schooling, but emphasised "that the case of anglophone immigrants to Quebec must be studied." To counter this problem, Lapierre suggested Quebec could select only non-anglophone immigrants, using powers granted in a 1978 agreement with the federal government.

(CP)

Speaking at a nomination meeting at Laval-des-Rapides on Tuesday, Claude Ryan said Prime Minister Trudeau should hold back on unilateral patriation of the constitution until

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after the next Quebec provincial election. He added that as far as Quebec is concerned, "the 1867 agreement clearly constitutes a contract which commits both sides and could not be changed by only one of them."
(CP)

The Quebec wing of the NDP announced it disagreed with Leader Ed Broadbent's conditional support of Ottawa's plan to unilaterally patriate the constitution. In a working paper entitled "Toward the Unitary State," released Tuesday, the Party called on Mr. Broadbent to "take all means at his disposal to oppose the plan" which "poses a serious threat to the federalist system." The Party said Mr. Broadbent's pledge to support the constitutional plan if resource and trade benefits for the West are inserted, goes against a resolution passed by the NDP's National Council last month. "On that occasion, the federal council decided to oppose any unilateral patriation which would divide the country. In addition, the Quebec NDP is opposed in principle to unilateral patriation because it denies the existence of an authentic federalism...It is an act worthy of a unitary state and not of a federalist state."
(CP)

ONTARIO

Jack Ellis, Chairman of the Ontario caucus of the Conservative MPs said Tuesday that Premier Davis and Leader Joe Clark do not hold opposing views on the constitutional package. "There are many, many things they agree wholeheartedly on and we agree wholeheartedly on." He said Ontario MPs will back Clark's fight and added: "I don't think Mr. Davis is wrong at all."

Gordon Gilchrist, MP for Scarborough East, said Clark and Davis agree on the two key provisions of Mr. Trudeau's package: that the constitution should be brought home to Canada and that there is a necessity to protect human rights. He said Clark's opposition to the package is based on more technical points.

On Monday, Mr. Ellis had conceded that there are differences of opinions among the Ontario MPs. However, following Tuesday's discussions, MPs left the meeting saying they are united and will support Mr. Clark.

"United as usual," said George Hees (Northumberland). Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville) agreed: "In my opinion, we were unanimously behind the national leader." Sinclair Stevens (York Peel) said: "As far as I'm concerned I'm foresquare with the national position of our Party."
(CP)

ALBERTA

Premier Lougheed said Tuesday that there is general agreement among Albertans in protecting provincial interests against a federal intrusion and that he has the people's support in fighting unilateral federal action to patriate the constitution. Lougheed said the idea of a referendum on resources and the constitution has been discussed in Cabinet but that the government is not pursuing it at this time. He added he will attend the meeting of provincial premiers in Toronto next Tuesday to discuss the proposals.
(CP)

The North:

NDP MP Peter Ittinuar said Monday the government's plan to bring the constitution home without addressing native rights and land claims is an affront to native people and "demonstrates the government's failure to meet the challenge of constructing a constitution which honors the wishes of all its citizens."

Mr. Ittinuar complained the resolution "does little more than affirm a continuing failure to acknowledge aboriginal rights" and added that natives are concerned about equalization payments based on provinces rather than regions, and guarantees of mobility rights that may have a large impact on employment and the way of life in isolated northern communities.

(Last week, Warren Allmand had also called for the constitutional plan to include guarantees of Inuit and Indian rights. He said "there are no guarantees (for natives) and we all know how treaty rights have been overridden time and again.")
(CP)

OCT 10 1980

UPDATE OF PROVINCIAL REACTIONS TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

October 9, 1980

In the regions, the Premiers seem to be adopting a "wait and see" attitude on the constitutional debate, with the exception of Premier Lougheed, who continues his violent attacks on the proposals and the energy tax during speeches to small local audiences across the province.

In Newfoundland, Premier Peckford has turned his focus on issues of local interest to the province.

In New Brunswick, Premier Hatfield's office has indicated their position will be made public after the Premiers' meeting in Toronto next week. The NDP Party there, in the midst of a leadership campaign, continue to remain quiet on the issue.

In Saskatchewan, Premier Blakeney may give some indication of his government's stand at a press conference called for this morning. (A tape will be available later today.)

In Quebec, the split between the provincial wing of the NDP and leader Ed Broadbent appears to be gaining momentum. At a press conference yesterday, provincial leader Jean-Denis Lavigne conceded that federal constitutional proposals are unacceptable and that they could never accept unilateral patriation. He was particularly critical of areas of language legislation and the amendment of the constitution by national referendum. He added Quebec delegates will fight hard to sway the rest of the Party to its way of thinking at a Party Congress in Edmonton next month.

In an interview on "As It Happens" last evening, Ed Broadbent was carefully supportive of the government's proposals. He mentioned a number of areas where the NDP would like to see changes, such as Native and Women's rights, and described minority language provisions as "too vague." But Mr. Broadbent stressed throughout the interview that the resource issue was the crux of the problem and the one "we're digging in on." He added he was confident the federal government would try to accommodate the West and give them what they "deeply feel they need." He portrayed Clark's reaction as "silly" and repeatedly described Premier Lougheed's demand as unrepresentative of the West and "extreme."

UPDATE OF PROVINCIAL REACTIONS TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

October 10, 1980

As they prepare to meet their colleagues in Toronto on Tuesday, the Premiers remain silent on any action they may undertake to fight the constitutional proposals.

Although he voiced strong objections to the unilateral nature of the proposed plan and outlined the areas of immediate concern, Premier Blakeney was careful to add the final decision to support or oppose the proposals will be made next week. Premier Blakeney said he had "some optimism" that significant changes might be made.
(Copy of printed statement and tape of press conference available.)

In Quebec, the Union Nationale joined the NDP's call to put aside partisan differences and form a common front to oppose the constitutional proposals. Interim UN leader Michel Le Moignan said there should be compromise until the federal government recognised the Canadian union is based on the autonomy of the provinces.

In Newfoundland, Premier Brian Peckford again blasted the proposals, his criticisms taking on an alarmist tone. He termed the implications as "simply terrifying" with regard to existing rights and the future economic prospects of the province, adding "we are very afraid...very frightened for our rights."
Premier Peckford mentioned resources, fisheries and Labrador Hydro as areas the federal government consistently "ignores", but did not give any specifics. A full statement, he said, will be made after the Premiers' meeting in Toronto.

Premier Lyon reiterated his position last evening and warned the budget could bring on a worse crisis.