

are substantial and they are to be completed within 18 months. We are talking about the installation of a new elevator and accessories, as well as provisions for the handicapped people to be able to enjoy—

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, the member who is speaking is a minister of the Crown and he should be aware of the fact that what we are debating is the proposal to revise the Constitution of Canada. What possible relevance could elevators in the Peace Tower or the carillon in the Parliament Buildings have to the constitution remains to be proven. I suggest that the minister has the responsibility at least to be in order.

**Mr. Irwin:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Does the hon. member stand on the same point of order?

**Mr. Irwin:** It is a point of order which arises out of the hon. member's point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order. I think we would perhaps be better served if we could deal with one point of order at a time. I listened to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) and to the minister whose references to the carillon and the Peace Tower, I think, were tying in with his comments related to earlier matters which occurred in 1927 which involved the Canadian Constitution. So far as I am concerned, the minister's comments are, from what I have heard, perfectly in order. Does the hon. member still seek the floor on a point of order?

**Mr. Irwin:** No.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the recollection of all hon. members, including the hon. member who rose on a point of order, the inscription over the western archway of the Peace Tower which reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish".

Our proposed resolution respecting the constitution is one of vision. We recognize that if Canada is at long last going to take its place amongst independent nations of the world, we cannot do it by looking back to our colonial ties. We must look forward to the day when all decisions affecting our destiny are enacted on Canadian soil and by a government elected by the Canadian people.

The proposed resolution contains the vision of a people who are guaranteed freedom of conscience, opinion, assembly, and the right to vote. It entrenches the principle of equality before the law for all Canadians, irrespective of sex, colour or religion. It confirms and supports the rights of Canadians to move, to work and to live in any part of Canada, and to have their children educated in either official language where numbers warrant. And it enshrines the principle of sharing or equalization as past generations of Canadians, native and pioneer, have shown in this vast country of ours that survival as a nation depends on this spirit of generosity.

By no means, the least of these are those Canadians who have paid the supreme sacrifice in times of war, as was so

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eloquently and movingly pointed out by the the hon. member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) in his remarks in the House last Friday. But hon. members need not look any further than this chamber for examples of the length of time required to complete any worth-while project. The work in stone and the panels above the heads of hon. members here tonight are an example of the time and care required physically or, as I have indicated, through the process of law, to the attention of any worth-while project.

The dominion sculptor, Eleanor Milne, and her staff have been working for several years on these high relief panels, coincidentally called the BNA series.

**Mr. Beatty:** That is pathetic.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** In making reference to this art work, I am trying to illustrate that patience and the application of hard work over a long period of time are the usual prerequisites of any worth-while project. Similarly, I think that it is quite propitious that the physical aspects of Parliament are undergoing renovation, as witnessed by the work on the Peace Tower, at the same time that we address the legal implications of patriating the constitution.

Our proposed resolution contains mechanisms in recognition of the fact that time is required to sort out the details, such as in section 32 which provides for ongoing consultation between the Prime Minister and the first ministers of the provinces, until part 5, which deals with the amending procedure, comes into force.

In addition to the riding I represent being the largest in Canada in terms of population, it is composed of hundreds of small businesses, many of which I was instrumental in attracting to the area because of my conviction that we needed a proper mix of work opportunities together with living and recreation considerations.

Since the introduction of the resolution to Parliament in this resumed session, I have received many comments concerning it, a number of which have been small businessmen who are supportive of expeditious action to bring some resolution to our constitutional wrangling so that the government can deal with other current concerns such as amendments to the Bank Act, improvements to the postal service, the budget, energy issues and so on. I made a point of interesting myself in the expressed concerns of the small business community.

For example, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing some 600 community chambers of commerce and boards of trade, more than 3,000 companies and 70 trade and professional associations, reminded us that it adheres to a principle voiced at one of its earliest meetings more than half a century ago. The principle is, "To think and talk in terms of Canada, putting aside all provincialism. If Canada as a whole is prosperous, then individually and provincially we will all share in that prosperity." It was interesting to note that in the first point of their submission on constitutional matters, the chamber recommends: