

asking voters if they wished to pursue "sovereignty association" with Canada. This would have involved negotiating a new status for the province, making it "sovereign" but still associated economically and in other ways with the rest of Canada. The voters said no, by a margin of 60 to 40. Before the referendum, the federal government committed itself to a renewed federalism and constitutional change. Patriation was given a new emphasis.

That summer the federal government and the provinces had a series of meetings culminating in a major conference in September in Ottawa. There were twelve items on the agenda—including patriation, an amending formula, the Charter of Rights, the principle of equalization, the reform of the Senate and the Supreme Court, and the

redistribution of powers.

No progress was made, and the federal government decided to proceed unilaterally to patriate the Constitution with a Charter of Rights. Ontario and New Brunswick decided that unanimous provincial agreement was impossible and supported the federal government's move. The Minister of Justice, Jean Chrétien, introduced a resolution in the House of Commons asking the British Parliament to provide for patriation, for the adoption of an amending formula and for the entrenchment of a Charter of Rights and of the principle of equalization.

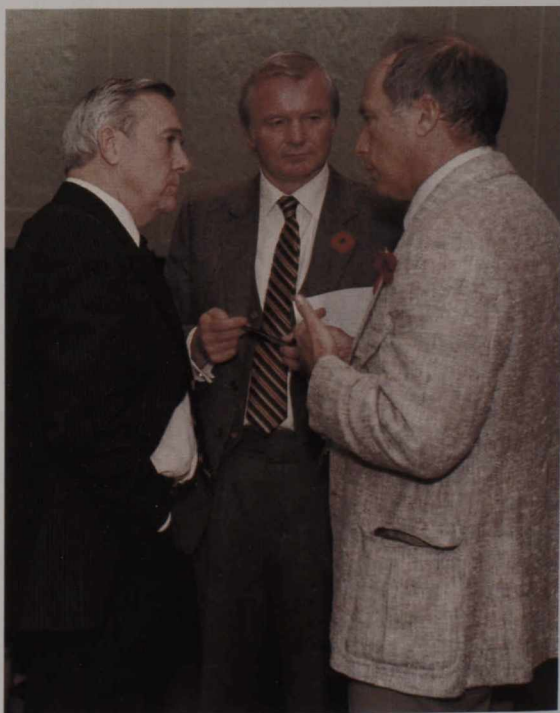
A special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons considered the resolution, and after prolonged debate and many significant changes it was adopted. There was, however, the



*Minister of Justice Jean Chrétien, Pierre Trudeau and Finance Minister Allan MacEachen*



*The Conference Centre*



*Allan Blakeney, William Davis and Pierre Trudeau*