

## First ministers make some progress

Following the First Ministers' Constitutional Conference in Ottawa, February 5-6, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau assessed the conference for members of the news media in the following words:

"...From our point of view I am convinced that the Federal Government went a very considerable distance to satisfy feelings of regional alienation, feelings of provinces who felt that they were endangered by federal pre-eminence in legislative areas. And we have gone some considerable distance also in alleviating some of the fears of that other duality, the linguistic one. So I think there has been, personally, progress by several premiers. At least five of them are prepared to see entrenched in the Constitution basic linguistic rights in the areas of education...."

"I think a majority have also said that they would want a charter of some form whether it went as far as the one we propose or not. So, I think that in that area there is good progress to protect the individual against the state — to protect the English-speaking minorities in Quebec and the French-speaking minorities elsewhere from provincial governments which might not want to recognize educational rights for those minorities.

"Now in the other areas, the dozen or so areas where the provinces were sort of saying we want to limit federal power or we want to get provincial power where until now there was either federal paramountcy or federal exclusive jurisdiction — I think we have taken very generous steps towards satisfying the provinces; certainly when we are prepared to limit the declaratory power; when we are prepared to limit the spending power; when we are prepared to recognize joint jurisdiction in the off-shore, when we have a Supreme Court judgment saying that it is federal property; when we are prepared to limit what has never been done before...to meet the concerns of the provinces who want to protect their resources from so called federal interferences. I think we have made very considerable movement...."

## Bringing home the Constitution

*Question:* "How far are you prepared to go on patriation and are you prepared to meet Premier Davis' call for immediate patriation?"

*Answer:* "Well, if I can give a general answer to this question...where we go from

here is a matter I want to seriously discuss with my Cabinet colleagues. We have all put a lot of effort into this. We believe that the unity question is important in Canada. We believe that it is very important to demonstrate not only to the people of Quebec but to those in the other provinces who feel that there should be a renewed federalism. We believe it is important to show movement. And I will not tell you how we will show movement until I have discussed it with my colleagues in Cabinet. But I can give one undertaking...in areas of federal jurisdiction which come under Section 91(1) I will feel completely free to move unilaterally in Parliament asking Parliament to do certain things. As regards matters that do not come entirely under federal jurisdiction I would undertake not to move unilaterally without meeting the provinces again."

## Confidence in united Canada

"Quebec independence would have a major effect on the geopolitical stability of our continent and it is entirely understandable that your Government leaders, including President Carter, should have reaffirmed their belief in the unity of such an old and close ally as Canada," was the affirmation made last month by Justice Minister Marc Lalonde in an address to the members of the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco.

Outlining the origins and prospects of the Canadian unity question, Mr. Lalonde



*Marc Lalonde, Minister of Justice.*

spoke of the profound changes that took place in Quebec society in the early Sixties, which were at the root of the independent movement in Quebec.

Drawing a parallel between the debate among French-Canadians and English-Canadians, the minister pointed out that "it is not the case...that there is an inevitable development of some type of collective French Canadian or Quebec consciousness which will necessarily result in independence".

Thus, Mr. Lalonde stated, French-Canadians were not in agreement on the concept of the nation and on its relation to the state; nor did they agree on the best way to achieve the security of their cultural group; finally, there was a difference of opinion as to the best way of modernizing the economy and making it thrive. Mr. Lalonde also noted that the attitudes of anglophone Canadians had changed considerably in the past three or four years. Thus the predominantly English-speaking provinces hoped for constitutional change for their own particular reasons and not simply as a reaction to Quebec.

Reiterating his confidence in a united Canada, the Minister of Justice informed his audience of the numerous steps taken by the Federal Government to amend the Constitution, while trying to balance its desire to reach some agreement on the Constitution with its concern to ensure that new constitutional arrangements did not weaken the country or unduly favour the strong regions.

While he was in the United States, Mr. Lalonde also spoke at the symposium on "Lifestyles and Health", at the University of California. His subject was "A New Perspective on the Health of Canadians", a study that he published when he was the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

## Canada/Korea property pact

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Park Tong-Jin, who visited Ottawa from February 12 to 14, discussed with Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson international and bilateral issues, including recent developments in Asia and economic co-operation.

The two ministers also signed an Agreement on Industrial Property which will secure, on a reciprocal basis, the right to protection of industrial property in the two countries.