

Constitution Amendment, 1987

13. Part VI of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"PART VI

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES

50. (1) A constitutional conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces shall be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada at least once each year, commencing in 1988.

(2) The conferences convened under subsection (1) shall have included on their agenda the following matters:

(a) Senate reform, including the role and functions of the Senate, its powers, the method of selecting Senators and representation in the Senate;

(b) roles and responsibilities in relation to fisheries; and

(c) such other matters as are agreed upon."

14. Subsection 52(2) of the said Act is amended by striking out the word "and" at the end of paragraph (b) thereof, by adding the word "and" at the end of paragraph (c) thereof and by adding thereto the following paragraph:

"(d) any other amendment to the Constitution of Canada."

15. Section 61 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"61. A reference to the *Constitution Act 1982*, or a reference to the *Constitution Acts 1867 to 1982*, shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendments thereto."

General

16. Nothing in section 2 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* affects section 25 or 27 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* or class 24 of section 91 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

CITATION

17. This amendment may be cited as the *Constitution Amendment, 1987*.

And the amendments thereto of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra, p. 9585) and Mr. Broadbent (p. 9586).

Mr. Speaker: Before debate continues, I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended by 72 minutes beginning at one o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to the order made Thursday, October 1, 1987, the following amendments are deemed to have been moved.

Mr. Caccia moved:

That the motion be amended in paragraph 1 of the Schedule

(a) by deleting Section 2.(1) and substituting the following therefor:

"2.(1) The Constitution of Canada shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the recognition that Canada constitutes aboriginal and multicultural societies, with English and French as the official languages of Canada, French-speaking Canadians being centred in Quebec but also present elsewhere in Canada and English-speaking Canadians concentrated outside Quebec but also present in Quebec".

(b) by deleting Section 2.(3).

Mr. Allmand moved:

That the motion be amended in paragraph 1 of the Schedule by adding immediately after subsection 2.(4) the following:

"(5) Nothing in this section derogates from any of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

[Translation]

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to take part in this debate because I am among those who believe that, if we want to maintain and promote Canadian unity, it is essential to make Quebec an integral part of the Constitution Act, 1982.

[English]

Under Prime Ministers Laurier, King, St. Laurent, Pearson, Trudeau, and Turner, the Liberal Party, when in power, has always stood for constitutional policies to affirm Canada's sovereignty and political independence, to protect the basic rights and freedoms of Canadians, to recognize the French fact throughout Canada, and to respect the federal system of Canada.

[Translation]

In 1971, after long and delicate constitutional negotiations, the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), then Minister of Justice, had achieved a consensus in Victoria. However, because of the political climate in Quebec, Mr. Bourassa was unable to ratify the agreement.

I well remember the evening of November 15, 1976, when a separatist Government was elected in Quebec. There was sadness on Parliament Hill and we had a lot of fears about the future of our country, which fears lasted until the 1980 referendum, and finally, the election of a Liberal Government in Quebec.

While we celebrated the patriation of the Constitution in 1982, our joy was somewhat tarnished by the fact that the separatist Government in Quebec had not signed the agreement.

[English]

In November, 1986, the Liberal Party of Canada at its biennial policy convention adopted, by an overwhelming majority, Resolution No. 8 which reads as follows:

● (1230)

Be it resolved that:

(a) a preamble be added to the Constitution of Canada to recognize:

(i) the commitment of Canadians to maintain and reinforce across Canada the linguistic duality of the Canadian federation,

(ii) the distinctive character of Quebec as the principal but not the exclusive source of the French language and culture in Canada,

(iii) the multicultural nature of Canadian society, and in particular respect for the many origins, creeds and cultures as well as the differing regional identities that help shape Canadian society;

(iv) the contribution of Canada's aboriginal peoples,

(v) the advantage of developing the Canadian economic union;