

The Constitution

So, with no election mandate and with no demand from Quebec to do so—in fact both political parties opposed the Constitution—this arrogant Liberal government plots to tear down the historical contract under which Canada was built.

I say “contract” because Canada’s Constitution, the BNA Act, is a contract, a contract which is the very underpinning by which Canada came together and by which Canadians live. It is a contract entered into by two partners, the provinces on the one hand, and the federal government on the other. While a contract may be broken by either partner, it cannot be the instrument by which one partner can take over the rights and privileges of the other, without consent. Such a takeover would be illegal, and that certainly is the provincial view. Is it any wonder that eight of our ten provinces oppose this Liberal plot? Is it any wonder that two out of three Canadians, 64 per cent of us, are opposed to the unilateral action of an undemocratic government?

In the last Gallup poll, when asked the question if they “preferred to have the Constitution amended by the British parliament to incorporate a bill of rights, and then brought to

Canada”, four out of five Canadians responded “no”. Four out of five Canadians are directly opposed to the very action which this obviously undemocratic government plans to take.

This government, and every one of its members, was elected to represent and enact the wishes of the majority of Canadians. The majority of Canadians are saying, “No, don’t change our Constitution in Britain”, and the majority of Canadians are not stupid. They, too, have been reluctantly watching the developments of this constitutional debate and they have heard how their rights are being put in jeopardy, not made stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to explore a couple of the rights which have been written, but I see that my time has run out for today. With your permission, may I call it six o’clock and continue tomorrow?

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. It being six o’clock, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. tomorrow, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At six o’clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.