

call the Vancouver consensus because it gives every province the highest degree of equality, consistent with population. It does not give the power of veto to one province over another. In short, it does not create second-class status for all provinces other than Quebec and Ontario.

Furthermore, there is virtual agreement already among the provincial premiers for the Vancouver consensus. Any statesmanlike prime minister would not admit defeat now when agreement is so near. A truly worthy prime minister would drive hard to obtain provincial agreement in a process of nation building. In actual fact, the Prime Minister declared during the past election campaign that he would prefer to wait until Claude Ryan was elected premier of Quebec before resuming discussions on constitutional reform. Something has certainly rushed him forward. But as an architect and as a nation builder, we would not want to accuse our Prime Minister of that. Instead of being a house builder, he is a home wrecker.

For a few moments let us look at the real builders of Canada, including the Macdonalds, the Cartiers, the Browns and others. Let us look back on the events which brought together the founding provinces of this great country of ours. In the 20 years or so prior to confederation and following the Durham report, there existed a period of political instability. Canada came to the recognition that the world was changing and that she must become more self-reliant. In 1845, Great Britain had adopted a laissez-faire attitude and colonies were not being given the trade preferences they had had. Canada needed markets for her goods. In addition there was a growing desire to expand westward, not only for markets, but to cut off United States western expansion which would have turned northwest.

At the apex of this period of instability, George Brown, a Liberal of the day and a far different Liberal from those of today, made a deal which he considered to be in the best interests of Canada with Messrs. Macdonald and Cartier. He said he would support the Conservatives if they would attempt to combine with the maritime provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to form a federated state which would be big and strong enough to survive against United States expansion.

The result of the 1864 Charlottetown meeting and subsequent Quebec resolutions was the British North America Act, designed in Canada and created by a process of consent. It was a contract, not a conquest. Canada was not born out of revolution or bloodshed. That has not been the Canadian way. It was a contract by consent. The great genius of Canada has always been consent. Even today, in my view, if Quebec or Newfoundland wanted to leave Canada by legitimate means, no one would take up arms against them. We have always agreed. We must always agree. We must not impose; we must have consent.

In 1867 Canadians created this country, this Canada of ours. In 1967 Canadians reaffirmed our confederation with the greatest public outpouring of emotion our country had ever seen. We believed in Canada, its beauty, its culture and its

social values. A new Constitution was the furthest thing from our minds. Canadians from east and west only wanted to continue the building of a great nation and a great society entering its second century.

Many of us, in an attempt to aid further the improving bonds between Canadians and Quebecers, elected the present Prime Minister, a man we believed would provide the spiritual and emotional link that would further bond two diverse cultures. Many of us agonized through the Official Languages Act which followed and which time has shown has increased the two-language problem and exacerbated our differences. Many of us sat patiently by while Quebec continued to break out of its economic straitjacket with the help of massive federal funding through DREE programs, Hull and Mirabel, federal government multimillion dollar projects and overly large government purchasing programs from Quebec suppliers.

How has all of this paid off for the citizens of the other nine provinces? The solidly Quebec-based Liberal party, with the complicity of the other members who know which side their bread is buttered on, is continuing to create division in a country which should be coming together with a sense of unified purpose—the building of Canada, a unified people working toward a common goal. This Liberal government, not content that it has gained power on a mandate of deceptive energy pricing and control which has totally divided western Canada from the east, has now set about to divide province from province with a new Constitution.

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This is not just the perception of one Canadian. If the Prime Minister would cease this haughty arrogance and pay attention to the views and legitimate aims of the provinces, perhaps we could forge a Constitution which would come from the people of Canada, not one imposed on them by a government which is reflecting the views of less than one quarter of Canadians. A majority of seats in this House is a far cry from a majority of the people of Canada. More people in the last election voted against this government than for it.

After all, it is the provinces which more closely represent the wishes, aspirations and hopes of their citizens. If the wishes of the people and the provinces which represent the diverse needs of Canadians are not represented, that is not diversity, that is simply reality and the reality of differing needs will continue even after a new Constitution has been imposed. In fact, the differences will be all the greater after an imposed Constitution than after a Constitution which has been created by the people through their provincial legislatures.

Canada has always had different economic and social conditions. In early times our maritime provinces, the cradle of confederation, also provided the jobs and livelihood of early Canadians. Later, many maritimers went west to Ontario for industrial and mining jobs, enriching the central part of Canada with their presence and their skills. Still later, many central Canadians moved west to seek opportunities provided there. Quebecers have found careers in all parts of Canada and, of course, many citizens from other lands have found