

*The Constitution***SPECIAL DEBATE**

First, I would like to remind you that the government is committed to support post-secondary education based on excellence and equal access. We all recognize the importance of education to build a country, as well as the essential evolution of the system, based on new requirements.

It is in this perspective that the Secretary of State supported the commission of inquiry on university education in Canada that was set up by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we have paid approximately one third of the costs, that is \$250,000, incurred by the commission chaired by Mr. Stuart Smith.

The commission tabled its report in October 1991, and since, the AUCC has formed a task force to study the report of the commission.

The group, headed by Mr. Brian Segal, rector of the University of Guelph, is composed of university rectors, as well as representatives from the private sector. This group will recommend, by June 1992, specific measures to be taken as regards the themes and the problems raised in the report of the commission.

Distance teaching meets the needs of those who find it difficult to go through the traditional education system, namely the students in remote areas. Canada is a world leader in that field. Several provinces have undertaken innovative projects. For instance, the Télé-Université du Québec, TVOntario or the Knowledge Network in British Columbia, illustrate the efforts made by universities and colleges to facilitate accessibility to post-secondary education.

There is an increasing demand for post-secondary education. In fact, Canada and the United States have the highest participation rates in the world as regards post-secondary education. Moreover, one of the main trends right now shows that the number of adults, and even relatively old people, participating in these post-secondary education programs is constantly increasing. That is why adult education is another option that the government is taking a close look at.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to order made on Wednesday, February 5, 1992, the House will continue the debate on the adjournment motion for the sole purpose of allowing members to make presentations on the results of discussions they have had with their constituents on the constitutional issue.

I would like to recognize at this time the hon. member for Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington. Then I will recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, followed by the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway.

**Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak on the very important subject of the renewal of Canada's Constitution, where we are going and what my constituents have been telling me about Canada.

We are fortunate to live in the most favoured nation in the world, but all too often we have a tendency to think, as we listen to news reports or sometimes pessimists, that Canada is a lost cause. Let me say I do not believe this pessimistic view.

Generally speaking I have been close to my constituents over the past decade and beyond and I believe that today there is a tremendous frustration with our political system, petty partisan politics, our confrontational system, and the parliamentary system which dominates the media.

As Canadians we are overgoverned by existing bodies such as municipal, provincial and federal government agencies, boards, commissions, and it goes on. We should consider a reformed House of Commons that would better represent the regional interests of our nation. A more effective and representative House of Commons would eliminate the need for a Senate, either appointed or elected.

Under our present system of voting in the House of Commons there is a great deal of pressure and even intimidation on members of Parliament. The only free vote is a secret vote, as was the case in the selection of our present Speaker of this democratic Chamber. MPs