

Language equality in federal institutions is vital, but not sufficient. Other accommodations will also be necessary. Many francophones feel blocked from fulfilling themselves as Canadians because of lack of equal opportunity in the private sector. In Quebec, they must have more opportunity to work hard and make decent progress using the French language only. On the national level, corporate business and other private organizations must make more room for, share more power with, the French Canadian who speaks English. And if the bilingual French Canadian and his family are to take full advantage of greater career mobility nationally – without having to fear cultural assimilation – provincial and local governments must also provide more schools and government services in French, in those areas where there is a significant French-speaking minority. The Federal Government stands committed, of course, to help.

...I hope I've shown you that greater language equality – not widespread "bilingualism" – is our reasonable and attainable goal. And that it is not only attainable – but absolutely essential, if Canadians wish to live together in one country.

Because, since November 15 the question to be decided has been whether five million Quebeckers will continue to speak French in Canada – or in an independent country of their own. That is what the "language question" means to us all – nothing less.

Our country can remain united only if French Canadians wish to – and are able to – participate fully in Canadian society. It can remain united only if the Westerner wishes to – and is able to – participate fully. If it is unacceptable for a Quebecker to be told that his sons and daughters will have to renounce their language and culture and assimilate if they want to find a decent

career – it is also unacceptable that the sons and daughters of Western Canadians, who love the West, should have to move off to Toronto, or to the U.S., to find greater economic opportunity – when more of those opportunities should exist right here in the urban centres and secondary industries of the West.

I have said that I see the challenge of November 15 as the West's opportunity to get a better deal out of Con-

federation. As it is for all Canadians. True enough, I am asking Westerners to open their hearts, to understand and accommodate the Quebecker's need for language equality. But I will also be asking all Canadians, including Quebeckers, to understand and accommodate the particular needs and aspirations of the West. To give greater recognition to the new power, new vitality, and new maturity of Western Canada....

News briefs

- The largest increase in food price since mid-1975 pushed the cost of living up sharply in February, Statistics Canada reports. The consumer price index rose nine-tenths of one per cent from January, with food prices accounting for more than half the overall increase. The over-all consumer price index, based on a 1971 level of 100, was 155.4 in February, 154.0 in January and 145.6 in February 1976. The purchasing power of a 1971 dollar was 64 cents in February.
- Air Canada will operate fewer flights this summer, compared with the number last summer, because of current economic conditions and a general slackening in air traffic. CP Air plans a widespread reduction in flying hours, cutbacks in flights and increased seating in its aircraft.
- Crude oil showings have been encountered in recent days in the offshore well being drilled 175 miles southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, by a team of private participants and Petro-Canada, the federally-owned petroleum industry operation. The Penobscot B-41 well is at almost 9,000 feet now and it is expected to reach a projected total depth of between 10,000 and 11,000 feet within three weeks. The oil showings have reinforced industry predictions that the well could possibly bring in the first commercial oil strike on Canada's East Coast.
- The Government introduced legislation on April 18 that would permit couples to split Canada Pension Plan benefits equally if they divorced. The proposal would provide equal division of CPP credits between a husband and wife even if one of them had not worked outside the home or contributed

to the pension fund.

- Immigration during 1976 dropped by 20 per cent. Among the 149,429 persons admitted in 1976, 72,031 persons chose Ontario for settlement.
- A Gallup poll says the Liberal party improved its position in March by one percentage point to 42 per cent, compared to 36 per cent for the Progressive Conservatives. Support for the New Democratic Party remained steady at 17 per cent.
- Bell Canada proposes to issue \$75 million (U.S.) of debentures in Europe. The debentures, Series DD, will be dated May 1, 1977 and will mature on May 1, 1987. The indicated coupon rate is 8 per cent.
- Three Canadian banks are among 12 banks participating in a \$66.1-million (U.S.) performance guarantee bond for a South Korean company to build a port in Saudi Arabia.
- Kenya is planning to buy four DHC-5D *Buffalo* short take-off and landing aircraft from the Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. for more than \$25 million, along with about \$3.5-million worth of electronic equipment from Shefford Electronics Corporation.
- The MLW Industries division of Bombardier-MLW Ltd. of Montreal has an \$8.3-million contract to supply locomotives to Bangladesh.
- Consumers will pay 10 cents a pound more for butter and spend \$477 million for subsidies to farmers under terms of a new federal dairy policy.
- Montreal plays the New York Islanders, and Boston meets Philadelphia in the semi-finals of the National Hockey League best-of-seven game play-offs. In the best-of-seven-game quarter finals, Montreal beat St. Louis 4-0; New York Islanders beat Buffalo 4-0; Boston beat Los Angeles 4-2; and Philadelphia beat Toronto 4-2.

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