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## Speech (Continued from P. 5)

no access. A crushing failure? As the saying goes, give a dog a bad name and hang him. If politics has taught me anything, it is that in that art, all success is relative.

These, then, are a few reasons why many Quebecers have serious doubts about the advisability of saying "yes" to sovereignty-association. And these are not the only reasons. I must mention the one that impresses me personally more than all the others — the danger of breaking the Canadian union, in face of the attraction of such a powerful neighbour. Would a politically isolated Quebec have any chance of resisting eventual assimilation by the United States, even if it remained within the Canadian economic entity? I am not the only one to believe that the secession of Quebec would bring a breaking up of Canada, not into two but into three or four pieces each of which would sooner or later find itself in the American union. This is of course not the worst thing that could happen to a people. But in my opinion, our French-speaking community would lose every chance, not only of developing but of surviving culturally, in such an adventure.

### Renewed Canadian institutions

However, let us return to the referendum. It is already well known, because they are not embarrassed to admit it, that many federalists who are opposed to any total or partial secession, will still say "yes" when they go to the polling booth on May 20. How are we to interpret this paradox? An eminent Quebec political scientist has just explained his position publicly. He does not believe in the secessionist proposal. He rejects sovereignty-association. But he wants a renewed federalism according to another formula. He is afraid that by voting "no" he would

be endorsing the *status quo*. He will therefore vote "yes", but only in order to give the federal authorities and the English-speaking provinces a shock sufficient to set in motion serious negotiations towards a radical renewal of Canadian institutions. He will not be the only one. I know some labour militants, former colleagues from the time when I myself was a union worker, who will vote "yes" even though they want to stay in Canada. "It's simple," one of them said to me. "Now that we're into the ultimate blackmail, we'll keep on rolling. Otherwise, we would lose all negotiating power. But you'll see. Everything will work out." Let me add that this worker voted for Mr. Trudeau in the last federal elections, as did 68.3 per cent of the Quebecers who voted that day. Neither his attitude nor that of the political scientist I mentioned earlier, obeys the strictest rules of Carte-

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### News briefs

The 1980-81 Alberta budget was introduced recently by Treasurer Louis Hyndman. The government will run a \$1.75-billion surplus in the current fiscal year. In addition to the \$6.4 billion the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund already has, it is expected to grow by another \$2.3 billion in 1980-81. There are no new taxes; however, there will be a modest increase in health premiums. Capital projects will receive another \$1 billion, a 31.1 percent increase over 1979. The government also plans to spend \$1.1 billion from this year's surplus to finance public sector pension funds.

Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd. will spend \$60 million to retool its St. Thomas, Ontario assembly plant for the North American production of sports models of a new small car to be introduced in the coming model year. Company president Roy F. Bennett said anticipated consumer demand in North America for the new *Lynx* and *Escort* front-wheel-drive subcompact vehicles should assure full production at the St. Thomas plant, with its 3,200 workers, for a long time to come.

The Bank of Montreal has reached agreement in principle to buy Banco Brascan de Investimento S.A. of Rio de Janeiro in a transaction valued at about \$73 million (U.S.). The acquisition is expected to complement the Bank's

sian logic, and I have a thousand reservations about these positions. But they are a fact which must be taken into consideration.

If there were a victory of the "yes" side, it would certainly not be devoid of meaning. It would even have a number of meanings, as can already be observed. And if the "no" side won the day, it would represent a refusal of sovereignty-association but certainly not an endorsement of the *status quo*.

Doubtless either verdict, despite its ambiguity, will be in line with a movement that is either secessionist or federalist. But neither verdict will be conclusive.

One thing we can predict with certainty is that Canadian political life is in no danger of falling back into the lethargy that men and women of my generation complained about bitterly when we were twenty.

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business in Brazil and help expand trade between Brazil and Canada.

A Canadian consortium led by Canadian Foundation Company Limited has been awarded a \$100-million contract by the Sri Lanka Government to build a reservoir complex in Sri Lanka. The consortium will provide a \$76-million interest-free loan to help pay construction costs. The loan is repayable over 50 years with no payment during the first ten years.

The Manitoba government has earmarked \$382,000 for completion of a special North Dakota-Manitoba joint project which will provide a water supply system at the International Peace Gardens. Under the new agreement, a new water treatment plant and distribution system is being constructed and they should be fully operational this year. The new system will provide Peace Garden facilities, such as the Music Camp and the Canadian Legion Athletic Camp, with a reliable supply of treated water.

Boxer Ian Clyde of Ottawa has won the Canadian flyweight championship for the ninth consecutive year, a record boxing officials suggest might never be broken. Clyde knocked out Pasquale Voulineau of Quebec City, at the 20-second mark of the third round in one of the bouts of the Canadian championship tournament in Halifax. Both Ontario and British Columbia won four gold medals during the tournament.

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