

*Supply*

as a great proponent of territorial rights. We made practically no progress during the time the Right Hon. Pierre Trudeau was Prime Minister. However, we have made great progress very quickly in the last couple of years. For that reason, I am proud to be a supporter of the present Government.

Let us look at the recent developments, going back just a few weeks, in the constitutional Accord and the perceptions of these in the Territories. We have heard a lot about how this has been perceived in Quebec and Ontario and southern Canada, but let us look at the perceptions which have come about in the Territories.

When the Meech Lake Accord was reached on April 30, we in the Territories were equally pleased, along with other Canadians, that a mechanism had been found for bringing Quebec into Confederation. This is something we wanted to see as much as anyone. However, we were bewildered and disappointed that we had not been invited to, and were not part of the Meech Lake Agreement. We could not understand why. Being a kind of gracious people, we assumed it might be an oversight. Therefore, we made every effort to see that elected representatives of the people of the Territories would be at the meeting to be held a month later when the ratification of the final draft was to take place.

I want to read into the record a letter I wrote at that time to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). I think it properly reflects the feelings of my constituents. It reads as follows:

Congratulations on your successful negotiations with the provincial premiers towards bringing Quebec into the Canadian Constitution.

Once this has been done then the only Canadians excluded from voluntary participation in this great confederation will be those living in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory.

We must therefore redouble our efforts to extend full provincial rights to Canadians living north of the 60th parallel.

In that the proposed Meech Lake constitutional amendment dealing with the changes to the amending formula for those items contained in Section 42 of the Constitution Act which include the creation of new provinces or the extension of existing provinces into the territories are of immediate and direct concern to the territories I solicit your undertaking that pursuant to Section 37(2) of the Constitution Act elected representatives of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory shall be invited to the contemplated First Ministers' Conference which is to deal with these proposed amendments.

Thank you.

● (1640)

Unfortunately, Sir, I have to report that I have not received a written reply to that letter.

Similar importunities were made by the First Ministers of the Territories to the Prime Minister of Canada and to the provincial First Ministers. Apparently, these also fell on deaf ears.

We now come to June 3. This time things were a little different. This time the exclusion is deliberate—the denial is deliberate. Why this was so we do not know. We probably will never find out until some of the participants publish their memoirs in the years to come. We might suspect that Manitoba covets parts of the District of Keewatin, or that the

Province of British Columbia has its eyes on parts of Yukon. We do not know. But what happened was that this cosy little club of southern provinces got together and made their own cosy little rules while other Canadians, those living north of the 60th parallel, just sat outside in the cold.

I think that all political Parties must bear some of the blame for this. Certainly, the provincial Premiers represented three federally-represented political Parties at that meeting. They all signed the agreement. They must all bear part of the blame.

The feeling in the Territories is that somehow the system has let us down. If this agreement goes forward, if goodwill is not shown in the future by the provinces and by the federal Government, then what will happen is that two classes of Canadian citizens will be created. We will have those enjoying full rights of citizenship below the 60th parallel, and above that line we will have second-class Canadians. That, of course, is not acceptable. What happened on June 3 is that disappointment turned to disgust. Bewilderment turned to revulsion.

There is a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories for whom I have a great deal of respect. His name is Mr. Robert MacQuarrie. He is not a member of any political Party. He is noted for his logical analysis. He is not given to hyperbole. This is what he had to say of the Langevin agreement. "It is a scandalous travesty of democracy". I think that he reflects the views of his constituents, who are also mine, in so saying.

I was back home in the Northwest Territories last week. As I walked around the streets of the various towns and settlements in my riding, carpenters would put down their saws and hammers, labourers would put down their shovels, and they would come up and ask me: "Why have they done this to us?" Sir, it is taken as a personal insult to those people who live in the Territories. The territorial Governments on behalf of the people they represent are taking these matters to court, and I think quite rightly so. They want judicial intervention into what they say is a denial of their rights, supposedly guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I would now like to go briefly through the agreement and outline the complaints that we have with it. First, there is the question of the Senate. Had we been there, the amendment to Section 25(1), I am sure, would have been worded differently. I think that this is an oversight. What this new section does is to deny any further appointments of Senators from the Northwest Territories or Yukon, although they are supposed to be guaranteed representation under other parts of the Constitution Act. But because they have no provincial Government to put the name forward on a list, when Senator Adams or Senator Lucier resigns, dies, or whatever, there can be no replacement until an over-all constitutional change is made. That is wrong. We ought to have representation in the Senate. I cannot see why anybody would deny that.

A very similar sort of situation arises with respect to the Supreme Court. No person in the Territories, no judge, can aspire to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada