

independent Quebec, but still retain Canadian currency and other economic institutions and arrangements.

But the Prime Minister has made it clear that Canada is not a buffet where you take as much of what you want and leave the rest for the others.

And Quebecers are becoming more aware of the economic implications of separatism and are less willing to accept the "stiff upper lip," "I'm alright, Jack" platitudes of Mr. Parizeau.

Recent studies have shown that even without social and political disruptions, the costs to Quebecers would be high. But a Canada without Quebec and a Quebec without Canada would not operate in an environment of "business as usual."

It would be business as "unusual," and no one has even tried to estimate the true costs of separatism, once emotion and feelings are introduced into the economic equation.

And emotion is a part of democracy.

As the next step in the re-confederation process, we established a joint committee of the House of Commons and Senate to seek the views of Canadians on the 28 constitutional proposals. After an auspicious start, the Committee ran into some rough waters -- the process was messy, the views expressed were visceral, in many cases strongly worded and uncompromising!

After protracted all-party discussions, the committee is now heading back on the road to be supplemented by a series of five issue-specific conferences on:

- o the economic union;
- o citizenship and diversity;
- o the division of federal and provincial powers;
- o federal institutions; and
- o aboriginal constitutional matters.

In addition, some form of "summary conference" is being proposed.

Again, I expect the process to be messy, the views visceral, strongly worded and uncompromising.

But that's what democracy looks like up close, under the microscope.

In February 1992, the committee will make recommendations to the government which will then develop formal proposals for re-confederation.