

Other meetings, happily for me, were all much more accepting of our country's official bilingual policy and multicultural policies as long as they applied equally to every province. There was great concern expressed about the English only law as it exists at present in Quebec. Although the majority of people supported our bilingual policy, they felt that it must apply to all languages equally.

There was mild acceptance of the idea of a reformed Senate and Supreme Court appointment process. There was strong acceptance of native peoples acquiring self-government and recognition of their inherent rights.

There was mild response, both negative and positive, to the issue of entrenching property rights and there was mild acceptance of the idea that Canada needed free trade in persons, goods, services and capital.

I have presented the findings of Northumberland to the joint committee and it has the document from which I was reading. As a follow-up, I would like to read a letter which I received from the Corporation of the Town of Port Hope which I feel in general expressed the views of my constituency. It was informing me of a resolution passed by the Port Hope Municipal Council on November 25, 1991 which states: "Whereas we are first and foremost Canadians and, whereas our country is in grave danger due to the constitutional crisis and, whereas our forefathers and our citizens have fought and given their lives to preserve this great country as one nation, therefore be it resolved that Council of the Town of Port Hope contact the leaders of the major political parties to urge them to set aside their political agendas and differences and work together as Canadians to resolve this crisis and develop a Constitution acceptable to all of our citizens, and furthermore, that the only acceptable solution to this issue will result in an undivided nation from east to west called Canada."

I would like to say that I concur with the majority of my constituents who hold the same view.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** If the hon. member has anything else she would like to file with the Clerk she may do so as far as her notes are concerned.

**Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk—Red River):** Mr. Speaker, this evening I will be brief in my commentary due to the fact that I know there are a number of members of this House who want to participate in this particular

### *The Constitution*

debate. I think it is important that we all have the opportunity to stand in this House and discuss our opinions or points of view on the future of our country. Like many others who have spoken this evening in the debate and in other parts of this discussion, I had the opportunity to bring together a community committee which took a long, very deliberate look at the proposals that were brought forward.

The process the committee went through was twofold. Along with discussing and explaining to the members of my constituency, they also took the time to listen to the concerns and opinions of the people who live within the constituency. As a result, they drafted quite a significant report.

I was very fortunate in the fact that they, along with many other community groups, had the opportunity to come before the joint House and Senate special committee to make their presentation. I truly believe they delivered a very significant message on behalf of the constituents of Selkirk—Red River.

I do not particularly agree with all the points that were brought forward, but I do know that the work of the committee truly reflected what they received as well as the information they brought together and their own discussions.

I would like to commend the work of what has been called the Schreyer committee in Selkirk—Red River for its efforts. I truly hope that in the future when we go to the next stage that the opportunity to once again participate in whatever manner the discussions of the legislation proposed by the government.

It is my opinion that as we talk about the efforts of the past, it is more important that we endorse the efforts that will actually start this evening because the joint special committee has now set aside its public hearings and now goes into the process of writing a report. It is important that all members of the House endorse their efforts.

In my mind and with the time I have spent with the committee, I think there is a real effort to come up with a proposal that the government and the provinces will be able to work with so that in the very near future we will be able to resolve probably, the most important issue in the country today.