

A CONSTITUTION TRULY AND WHOLLY CANADIAN

The following is the text of the communiqué issued at the close of the recent federal-provincial constitutional conference:

The conference of the federal and provincial governments, meeting in Ottawa on October 14, unanimously agreed on a formula to repatriate the Constitution of Canada. This formula, when it has become law, will mean that any future amendment of the Constitution will be made in Canada instead of by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. As a result, our Constitution will have become, for the first time in the history of Canada, truly and wholly Canadian.

This milestone in the evolution of Canada's government is the culmination of the series of discussions between the federal and provincial governments which began in 1950 and were carried on in 1960-61.

RULES FOR PASSAGE OF AMENDMENTS

The formula for constitutional amendment provides that, as a general rule, proposals for changes in the Constitution will become law if they are passed by Parliament with the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the provinces having at least 50 per cent of the population of Canada. In matters which are of concern to only a limited number of provinces, the two-thirds rule is replaced by the concurrence only of those provinces affected. Some fundamental provisions of the Constitution, such as those relating to the division of legislative powers between federal

and provincial authorities and the use of both English and French languages, could be changed only by the federal Parliament and all the provinces acting together.

The existing provisions of the Constitution, regarding amendments in matters of purely federal or purely provincial concern, will be removed from the British North America Act itself and will instead be included in the proposed new legislation. This legislation, embodying the new formula, clarifies the description of the matters concerning which the federal Parliament has exclusive jurisdiction to make constitutional amendments.

To provide for greater flexibility in the Constitution, legislative powers may be delegated between the federal and provincial authorities under conditions specified in the formula.

The constitutional formula was recommended unanimously by the attorneys-general of Canada and the provinces and accepted unanimously by the conference.

It is proposed that the French text of the amending formula should be included in a schedule to the Bill to be submitted to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, thus making the texts in both languages official.

The federal-provincial conference agreed that the Government of Canada and the governments of the provinces would from time to time study, in the light of experience, the working of the Canadian Constitution and any revision proposals which may be submitted by any of the governments.

FIRST FRENCH EXCHANGE SCHOLARS

Some 40 French-speaking students, scholars, researchers and artists engaged in fields ranging from linguistics to nuclear physics have been awarded scholarships and fellowships to study or work in Canada under the Canadian Government's new cultural-exchange programme with France, Belgium and Switzerland. Thirty of the winners are French, seven are Belgian and three are Swiss. Most of the award-holders have already arrived in Canada. The majority will be staying ten to 12 months. The awards have an average value of \$4,000, including travel and tuition, and may be renewed. A first selection of candidates took place in the three countries concerned, with final adjudication in Canada.

Most award-winners will be studying or working in universities and institutions in the Province of Quebec. A third have chosen to attend English-language universities because they found that these were the institutions specializing in their fields. More than half this year's group will study science, physics making up the preferred discipline, while others will study or work in such scientific fields as organic chemistry, neurology, geology, geography and forestry. Economics, law, administration, philosophy, psychology, music, drama, and painting are among the subjects to be studied by the others.

The exchange programme has been initiated by the Department of External Affairs and is administered by the Canada Council. Canada will spend \$250,000 this year on the scheme, which provides, in addition to the scholarships and fellowships, a programme of cultural relations seeking to promote Canada's performing and visual arts in the three French-language countries.

Canada hopes in time to extend the programme to other countries that are entirely or partially of French expression, when they can provide some measure of reciprocity.

FOREIGN MILITARY MEN VISIT

Thirteen senior naval officers from 12 nations toured Canadian naval and commercial installations from October 16 to 23. They were on a United States Navy supply-management course for senior foreign officers in Washington, D.C., the purpose of which was to acquaint officers from other nations with USN supply methods. A visit to Canada is regularly included in the course itinerary. The countries represented were Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Republic of China, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Spain, Turkey and South Vietnam.

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