

This is more or less what Parti Quebecois Leader Jacques Parizeau is also saying.

Here's what Prime Minister said recently in Quebec City:

"Beware of the dream merchants, those who say it's no problem to destroy a great country and rebuild it later, those who claim they alone can change the course of history."

That is a message that people across Canada and not only in Quebec need to bear in mind.

If Canada divides, why should we believe that would leave us untouched or that we would benefit in the wake of Quebec's separation? Of course, if you assume that things couldn't get worse, then any change must be for the better. This is what an Evening Telegram editorial of February 14 seemed to suggest:

"The point is made that keeping Canada together is vital to the economic future of the Atlantic Provinces and the West. That the departure of Quebec would lead to greater dominance by the centre, by Ontario, in both political and economic terms. But the statement belies the existing situation. The Atlantic and the West are already suffering and the dominance of the centre can hardly become worse than now."

Certainly not all Newfoundlanders agree with this.

As Cabot Martin recently said about a Canada divided by Quebec's separation:

"[M]inorities will be hit the hardest... central government will not be able to look after Newfoundland like it has.... [W]hen the federal government is put under tremendous stress like its going to be over the next couple of years, it's the people of this province who are going to suffer, and the people of other poor provinces."

Christopher Pratt expressed the same idea when he said:

"[W]ith Quebec gone, for example, Ontario and the West may show very little interest in supporting Newfoundland...."

And Peter Fenwick was almost apocalyptic when he described Newfoundland as "attempt[ing] to make our way in the world as the poorest part of a new East Pakistan."