



Jeanne Sauvé, the Speaker of the House of Commons, presents the joint address of the House and the Senate to Governor General Edward Schreyer for transmission to the Queen.

ous. This section assures its citizens that Canada is still committed to the mosaic.

Section twenty-eight applies the Charter equally to "male and female persons."

Section twenty-nine says the Charter does not change in any way Canada's long established and complex educational system in which religious denominational schools (in various provinces) receive public funding.

Section thirty applies the Charter to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories as fully as it applies to the provinces.

Section thirty-one says the Charter does not extend "the legislative powers of any body or authority," meaning that no government, federal

or provincial, gains power.

The thirty-second section applies the Charter to the federal government and Parliament and to the provincial governments and legislatures. A subsection provides that section fifteen, the one protecting various specific groups against discrimination, shall not go into effect for three years. This will give governments time to examine and, if necessary, adjust old legislation and regulations to make sure they conform.

Section thirty-three allows provinces to enact laws overriding certain charter provisions.

The last section, thirty-four, gives the Charter its full and proper name: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Great Canadian Evolution

The Canadian Confederation began in 1867.

The British North America Act, then as now the core of its Constitution, made two things perfectly clear.

Canada was a colony and would remain part of the British Empire, and though it was now a Confederation of provinces, the central government in Ottawa would have paramount powers.

People, pressures and the passage of time would change all that.

Canada now has severed its last political link to the British Parliament, and there has, in the

course of 115 years, been a remarkable shifting of power at home.

A stranger reading the Canadian Constitution might still reach a number of erroneous conclusions. The most powerful office holders in the country would seem to be the Queen's representatives, the Governor General in Ottawa and the Lieutenant Governors in the provinces. The federal executive appoints the Lieutenant Governors. Parliament pays them and only the federal executive can remove them.

The Governor General has, on paper, some-