

The Constitution

problems with manpower training and regional development.

This functional approach would significantly reduce duplication and would provide for efficient public administration.

There must also be restrictions on the use of federal spending power within the areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction.

The problem in the past has been how to reconcile the limitation of the spending power with the need for national standards. With a functional realignment of powers, it becomes possible to achieve a constitutional limitation of the federal spending power without compromising national standards.

With respect to immigration, an administrative agreement now exists between the two levels of government and that arrangement should now be constitutionalized.

As the Supreme Court of Canada is becoming increasingly a constitutional court of law, it is reasonable that the provinces have greater involvement in the appointment of judges to that court. We should be able to develop a mechanism to break deadlocks in the future.

Any framework for reform must address outstanding native issues. There is a broad consensus and understanding in Canada of the need to deal with the status, the rights and the claims of aboriginal peoples. The process for amending the Constitution must also be addressed.

An enshrined amending formula would enable Canada to get on with the problems with the economy and other issues affecting it. Furthermore, I strongly believe these proposals for constitutional changes must be brought to the Canadian people for their consent and approval.

• (2020)

For this purpose the Liberal Party proposes a national referendum comprising two questions. The first would be on the substantive elements of the constitutional reform package and the second would deal specifically with the amending formula.

In conclusion, my constituents feel that it is now incumbent upon the government to table a detailed and concrete proposal. They also feel this country is big enough for all Canadians and we look forward to the day this Constitution and the amendments become a reality.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this brief 10-minute time slot to set out on the public record what the majority of the people in the Lethbridge federal riding have told me concerning the constitutional resolution in Canada in general.

I am sorry it is only 10 minutes but after the government caucus and cabinet have put forward the final resolution for consideration in this House I hope to speak for a much longer period, setting out my personal views.

Like other members I have received many hundreds of letters and telephone calls and have spoken to many dozens of people concerning the issue that is before us today and has been for the past few months.

Prior to Christmas 1991 the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce sponsored a public meeting in the city of Lethbridge and many people participated. I published before Christmas a full householder on the federal proposals and got many worth-while and useful replies. As well I have spoken to many groups: church groups, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary clubs, and other service clubs throughout the riding.

What can I safely report? There is a minority out there which tends to believe the myths and the half-truths that are fed to them by special interest groups and certain parts of the media in Alberta. Tonight I speak for the vast majority and they speak very loudly and clearly on a number of points.

First, they understand far more than we generally give them credit for and while many of them admitted they did not know all of the details about our history and details about complex issues that you and I deal with every day, I am satisfied that they know the effect of globalization. They understand the implications of Europe and its coming together. They understand the implications of Asia and its coming together. They understand the impact of the yearly deficit and the national debt. They understand clearly and are very