

The Constitution

cent, favoured the right to amend it, followed by 31 per cent for the right to reject it. The lowest percentage went to the right to delay such legislation for six months.

Then the question was asked: Do you believe that the creation of new provinces such as Yukon or the Northwest Territories should be decided by the federal government in conjunction with all the provinces, or seven provinces representing 50 per cent of the population of the territories? Here strong support was given, namely 49 per cent in the affirmative, to the population of the territories to express such an opinion in conjunction with the federal government.

Then the question was asked: Do you believe that it would be important to involve the provinces and the territories in the appointment of federal Supreme Court judges? Sixty-nine per cent replied in the affirmative.

When it came to the question of raising the possibility of an impasse in the appointment of a federal Supreme Court judge as to who should have the final word, the options given were the federal government, the province or territory, or the federal chief justice. Here the largest number of support, namely 35 per cent, went to the federal chief justice.

Moving on to the last two questions, it is interesting to note that when it comes to seeking an opinion on whether unanimous consent of the federal government and all the provinces is required for constitutional amendments in matters relating to the office of the Queen, the composition of the Supreme Court of Canada, the use of English and French in certain situations, and the possibility of future amendments to the amending formula of the Constitution, the question focused on who should exercise a veto on these changes. Forty-nine per cent of the respondents felt that all the provinces should exercise the right to veto, followed by 25 per cent in favour of regional groupings, all of them. Unfortunately—and this reflects of course an interesting attitude that does not favour favouritism for one specific province—only one per cent favoured giving the veto power to Quebec.

Finally the question was asked whether a certain level of government would best be responsible for certain responsibilities. Without going into all the responsibilities, I will only highlight for you that communications was given 48 per cent of the respondents favouring a

federal responsibility, education was given 41 per cent in favour of remaining a provincial responsibility, fisheries received 40 per cent favouring a federal responsibility, while housing was the preference by way of 61 per cent in favour of becoming a provincial responsibility, immigration was given 58 per cent for a federal responsibility, and unemployment insurance 43 per cent.

It was interesting to note that when it comes to environmental protection 56 per cent of the respondents felt this would be a shared responsibility between the two levels of government. This was the highest percentage expressed in the category of shared responsibilities, followed by 40 per cent being the next one, health care in the forties as being a shared responsibility the respondents would favour.

• (2050)

This is a snapshot taken, as I said, last July. It represents replies given to questions I did my best to attempt to formulate in a manner that would not be leading but as objective and unbiased as possible, which we all know is ultimately impossible. Nevertheless the attempt was made. I thank you for the opportunity of making this report to the House.

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louis): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to participate on this historic occasion as we debate the future of our country. Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louis, which I have been proud to represent since 1984, is a unique riding in Canada, with almost a 50-50 balance between French and English speakers. It includes the four cities of Lachine, Dorval, Pointe-Claire, and Beaconsfield. I believe we are a great example of harmony and co-operation, particularly of French-English co-operation for Canada.

Canada Day celebrations are an example. Special events were planned last year by volunteer committees in Lachine, Dorval, and Beaconsfield, and over 10,000 people in my riding took part.

Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louis is a model example to the rest of our province and to the nation. We have our problems, but we have our solutions. We are a suburban riding at the west end of Montreal Island, surrounding Dorval airport. The prosperity of the whole Montreal Island is of great importance to the residents of our riding. For this, a renewed Constitution is very impor-