

industry, the reduction of CN workers' complement by over 20 per cent, the possible rerouting of CP Rail's trains through the U.S., the almost total annihilation of VIA Rail, the privatization of Air Canada resulting in loss of jobs and the virtual gutting of CBC, what would happen? Where will it stop?

The message is very simple. We would thrive. Give us the support we need and deserve and we will hold our own. In fact we will excel at it.

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NATIONAL UNITY

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert): Mr. Speaker, the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion believes in a united Canada and has since the organization's inception in 1925. It recognizes the need for change in our political structure, in the bureaucracy and in the Constitution. It believes through compromise and understanding Canadians working together can and will overcome these obstacles.

The Royal Canadian Legion supports: (1) a strong and united Canada, (2) a guarantee of individual rights and freedoms, (3) a policy of two official languages at the national level, (4) a need for a political framework supporting our continued existence as a nation, and (5) a simplified process to amend the Constitution.

Canadian unity is being threatened by separatists not only in Quebec but in western Canada. They want to divide our country. I urge Canadians to tell the likes of Parizeau, Bouchard and Manning that we believe in a United Canada. We are proud to be Canadians.

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TRADE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that a firm named Multinational Resources, listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange and with strong links with U.S. companies, announced its intention to dam the North Thompson River, which is a tributary of the Fraser River at Vavenby, British Columbia, in order to divert water into the Columbia River basin which

would eventually be delivered to the San Diego, California market.

This is occurring which the federal government begins negotiations to conclude a free trade agreement with Mexico and the United States.

• (1410)

We are aware that the governor of California, last month, indicated that he was anxious in purchasing fresh water from Canada for his state. We are reminded that the North America Water and Power Alliance proposal calls for British Columbia and Yukon Rivers to be damned and diverted into the United States and northern Mexico. We also know that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement did not say that Canada's rivers would not be diverted to flow into the United States.

I call upon the government to speak up and say that Canada's rivers will not be sold to the United States; that our fresh water is just that, our fresh water; that Canadians will not allow our rivers to be diverted wholly or partially to be sold in the United States or northern Mexico.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, Quebec Premier Bourassa says that a constituent assembly is an uncalculated risk that is not worth taking.

Last year the premier took a calculated risk on 11 middle aged white men in blue suits meeting behind closed doors. He says he will not do that again. He is prepared to risk negotiating but only with the federal government. That is a risk, however, that English speaking Canadians find totally unacceptable because both the Prime Minister and the premier come from Quebec.

A constituent assembly may be an uncalculated risk, but it is a risk that 68 per cent of Canadians outside Quebec and 57 per cent of Canadians in Quebec say they want to take. That makes it the only risk that is acceptable to a majority of Canadians.

Surely, if we learned nothing else from Meech Lake, we learned that it is not worth taking the risk if it is not acceptable to the majority of Canadians.