

*The Constitution*

they want us to get it over with, finish it, and bring the constitution back to Canada.

That was in Chilliwack, Dauphin, Ste. Rose du Lac, Russell, Yorkton, Margo, Kamsack and Regina. When I was in Regina, they had a walk-up microphone poll. Even that showed they were in favour of what we are doing.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** They must have talked to the only three Liberals there.

**Mr. Whelan:** It was a fairly high percentage. I have a brother in Regina.

**Mr. McKnight:** What's his profession?

**Mr. Whelan:** I will tell you his profession. He is in the insurance and real estate business.

**An hon. Member:** What party does he belong to?

**Mr. Whelan:** He is retired from the New Democratic Party, by force.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** I want to tell you this. He was a minister in the present government of Saskatchewan. He is no longer a minister there. He said to me "Gene, don't you forget this. I am a Canadian first and I will fight to help you. I will volunteer. I won't charge you one penny".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** He said, "I will do anything I can to make sure this Canada we know stays together". We have heard people talk about poverty. I can remember in Canada when we did not have medicare, hospitalization and so on. The member who just spoke talked about what we are going to do to this country. There were nine of us raised on mothers' allowance, if you can imagine what that was like during the dirty thirties. I remember that. In what other part of the world could one achieve one of the highest positions in the country with that kind of a background, besides Canada?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** My ancestry is what? Irish, French, Welsh, and Indian. I have a Hungarian sister-in-law, a Roumanian brother-in-law, a German brother-in-law, a Finnish sister-in-law, a wife of German-Yugoslav ancestry and I live in an Italian neighbourhood.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** There is no other country with the make-up of people that we have who have built this country from sea to sea, 4,000 miles. We have people from all over the world building and sharing together to make us the envy of the world, this country of Canada. Now some of them would have a community of communities, I believe they call it. That is not what we want in Canada. We want the Canada that we know

and love. We want the Canada which that guy Jean Chrétien fought so hard for in the referendum in Quebec.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** I can remember when that minister came to the House. He only spoke one language. He does much better than I, he now speaks two. When he came here, he used to practice his English. One day he said to me, "Eugene, I want to have lunch with you so that I can practise my English".

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whelan:** I said to him, "Jean, you are welcome but it won't be English, it will be Whelanese you hear". He is the minister we all admire. He fought like no one else in the Quebec referendum. Now they are trying to say that the Minister of Justice, who is leading the battle here, has changed, the man who took that strong stand in Quebec for Canada. They say he has changed. They know that is not true. He is the same strong Canadian he always was.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** When talking about television in this chamber today, members opposite said they want television in committee. The chairman of the agriculture committee then told me that his committee is also entitled to television coverage. I agree. There is nothing more important than food production and agriculture. We saw a display in the House today that I am sure would not have taken place if we did not have television in the House of Commons. They stood up and sang "O Canada", the former prime minister with his hands in his pockets.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whelan:** The former prime minister stood up with his hands in his pockets. Television will show that. What a show! He did not even sing the words to "O Canada".

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**Mr. Whelan:** I can remember my first trip to western Canada when I was a teenager. We went to western Canada. For what? To help. That was the time they used to get young easterners to go on excursions. It was to help harvest the wheat. It was an experience I never forgot. I spent four and a half days riding on a train to go, of all places, to a beautiful part of Canada, Alberta. My address was High River, Alberta. My brother visited the former prime minister's father in that town. Even then I did not find Alberta any different from Come By Chance, Port Hardy, Vancouver Island, Nipawin, Kamsack, Wetaskiwin or wherever. Canadians are not very much different from each other. They want the basic things of life.

**Mr. Andre:** So why treat them as second-class citizens?