

It is clear to me that a "yes" vote would provide the stability that is needed to get on with the economic challenges we face as a nation. A "no" vote is a leap into an uncertain future. Some have said, "Look, why don't we put this all off another five or ten years and have another go at it at that time and get on with the economic issues?"

Well, my friends, I do not think that we will be able to put this off for another five or ten years. Do you think that the supporters of a triple-E Senate are going to be happy just putting this off for another five or ten years? I do not think so.

Aboriginal leaders, who now have within their grasp the self-government for which they have been fighting for 100 years -- do you think they will be content to put it off for another five or ten years? In their place, would you?

Or do you think the Séparatistes in the province of Quebec are going to sit back and say, "Well, let's wait and see what happens over the next five or ten years and then make some moves at that time?" Jacques Parizeau has already said that he will not.

We are playing with fire if we allow the uncertainty we have lived with for the last two years to get worse -- as it will with a "no" vote -- and expect that there will not be any damage to our economy. So I believe that this referendum is about three things: the economy, the economy and the economy. And I think it is very important for us to address our concern about the economy by voting "yes" on October 26.

But let us look at it from another standpoint. Major General Lewis MacKenzie, who was the commanding officer of our peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia, said recently what he would like to do, before Canadians vote on October 26th: he would like to take each one of us to Sarajevo and show us how fortunate we are as a people to be able to live here in Canada.

So I say to you: think very carefully, very carefully, as you discuss the choices you and your families have to make on October 26. And as you weigh your choice, I ask you to consider a plea I saw recently. A young woman who is not yet old enough to cast a ballot in the referendum wrote to the editor of one of our leading newspapers (the *Toronto Star*). She is upset because she wants to vote "yes," but the members of her family do not -- some because they do not like Quebec, others because they do not like the Senate provisions.