

# 'Come in, the water's luvley'

ion for appointment to the Supreme  
 decentralist views of the prospective  
 by the provinces, rather than legal  
 of social vision. Inevitably, their rul-  
 e erosion of federal authority and a  
 he nation.

## SPENDING POWER

spheres as health and education  
 ly within provincial jurisdiction,  
 nadian Constitution permits the  
 ent to take the lead in initiating  
 et the basic social needs of all  
 ese and other areas. This is  
 ral programs such as Medicare  
 sions. The Meech Lake accord  
 al provinces to opt out of any  
 o establish their own provincial  
 ong as it meets "national

ll permit individual provinces to struc-  
 fically suited to each province's special  
 oose.

er inhibits the capacity of the federal  
 ise leadership in setting meaningful na-  
 he ambiguous meaning of the phrase  
 s" will mean that Canada will end up  
 d of vital programs which vary widely  
 ovince.

## THE SENATE

the Upper Chamber of Canada's  
 a body whose members are ap-  
 by the federal government. By  
 e Senate usually passes bills  
 nce they have been passed in  
 wer Chamber, the House of Com-  
 nadians deride the Senate for ser-  
 other than as a means of making  
 age appointments. They call for  
 e's abolishment or reform into an  
 At present any Constitutional

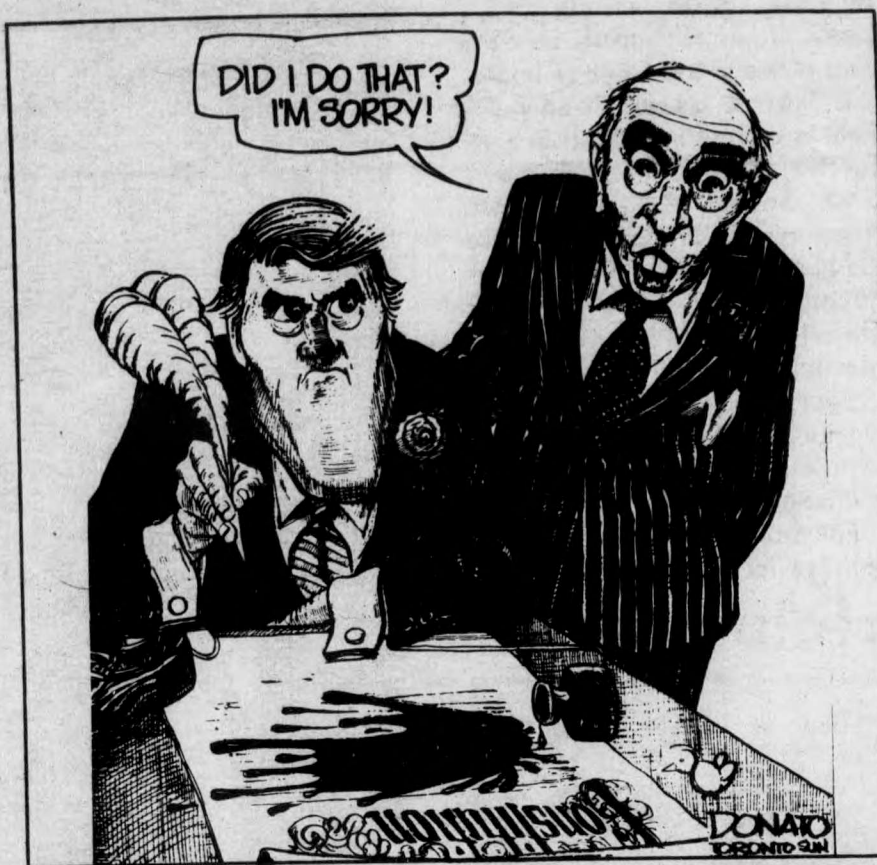
ecting the Senate must be approv-  
 even provinces containing at least  
 of the country's population. Under  
 y measure affecting the Senate re-  
 imous consent of all ten provincial

important as Senate reform should be sub-  
 approval of Canada's premiers. Should  
 become elective, its members, nominated by  
 ld adequately represent the interests of the  
 regions.

unanimous consent for Senate reform, the  
 d could effectively prohibit it from ever be-  
 all. If it became elective, provincially-  
 s could block any federal initiative the pro-

## ENDING FORMULA

onstitution Act of 1982, certain  
 o the Constitution require the ap-



proval of seven provinces containing at least fifty  
 per cent of Canada's population. Under the ac-  
 cord, the unanimous approval of all ten provincial  
 premiers is required to pass a constitutional  
 amendment. This includes any proposal for  
 Senate reform requiring a constitutional amend-  
 ment or the creation of new provinces.

**pro:** Canada's Constitution affects all Canadians and is of  
 such importance that the unanimous approval of Canada's  
 premiers should be needed before any changes to it are made.

**con:** The accord's method for facilitating constitutional  
 change requires only the veto of one province to prevent such  
 changes as Senate reform or the creation of new provinces. In  
 effect, the fate of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories has  
 been decided by a body in which they had no representation.

cial premiers can meet to discuss issues of concern to  
 the nation as a whole. The Meech Lake accord  
 specifies that in the future, these conferences will be  
 convened to consider future amendments to  
 Canada's Constitution.

**pro:** The institution of First Minister's Conferences assures  
 that input into Canada's future will be solicited from all ten  
 provincial premiers. All of the country's first ministers must  
 have a say in its future.

**con:** First Minister's Conferences represent an intrusion by  
 provincial premiers into the sphere of federal authority. Pro-  
 vincial premiers are, by nature, provincially-oriented and have  
 a difficult time seeing beyond their own provincial interests  
 toward a wider vision of the nation as a whole. An elected  
 federal Senate could simultaneously represent provincial in-  
 terests in Ottawa while keeping the nation's collective interests  
 in view.

## FIRST MINISTER'S CONFERENCES

First Minister's Conferences are a means by  
 which Canada's Prime Minister and the ten provin-

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