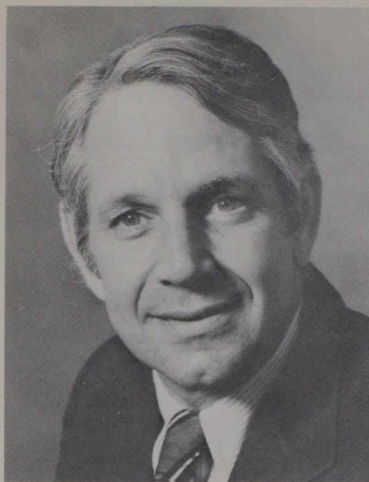




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Editorials

Scores of American newspapers had editorials on the referendum, both before and after the event.

Although almost all expressed a diplomatic hope that

the majority of Quebecers would reject the PQ government's proposal, only one, **The Wall Street Journal**, regarded the substantial No victory as a sign that the separation issue [had been laid] to rest for a good, long time. Below are excerpts from the **Journal** editorial and contrasting post-referendum editorials from other major papers.

The Wall Street Journal: If this greatly watered down initiative toward Quebec separation couldn't even come close to passage, there now can be little doubt about what the large majority of Quebecers want. They want to remain Canadians. . . .

While Canada has passed an important milestone, the nation as a whole still has many important problems to resolve. . . . There is . . . the urgent problem of the Canadian federal budget, which is heavily in deficit, with no immediate prospect of relief. . . .

But Canadians have every right to cheer the removal of an unwanted distraction.

The Baltimore Sun: By itself, however, this vote settled nothing. What it did was turn the momentum around, creating the opportunity for

Canada's ten provinces to sort out their relationships in a new constitution. . . . Canadians of good will were given more time to settle their differences, perhaps five years.

The Washington Star: The Prime Minister now suggests a more generous area of negotiations with the provinces. Beyond the retention of the federation with its national parliament, and a charter of freedoms and human rights, "everything else is negotiable." But taking the generosity at face value, the creation of a "new federalism" will still be a difficult and uncertain undertaking, to judge from past failures to obtain agreement among the provinces on constitutional questions.

The Washington Post: The American interest in Quebec is in its economic growth and stability. Neither seemed likely to be served well by Quebec's departure from the Canadian federation. But growth and stability now depend on those political leaders who urged Quebec to vote "non." On their response . . . depends whether the issue of separatism has now finally been put to rest.

The Des Moines Register: It would be foolish to pretend that Quebec nationalism is a puny force.

The MacNeil/Lehrer Report

The **MacNeil/Lehrer Report** on the Public Broadcasting System's network TV has often focused on Canada.

On May 21 it gave a half-hour interpretive roundup of the referendum results.

Robert MacNeil was in Montreal and Jim Lehrer in Ottawa, and between them they interviewed Reed Scowen, a Liberal member of the Quebec National Assembly; Lise Bissonnette, editor of the editorial page of **Le Devoir**, and a supporter of René Lévesque's Yes forces; Francis Fox, a minister in Prime Minister Trudeau's cabinet; and Harvie André, a Progressive Conservative member of the federal Parliament from Calgary, Alberta.

The four expressed opinions reflecting their different orientations, but they had some points of agreement. No one believed that the independence movement was dead in Quebec.

Reed Scowen put it this way: *There is a small percentage of indépendantiste in every Quebecer, and there's a small percentage of Quebecers who are principally, basically, indépendantistes.*

Miss Bissonnette felt that the movement would not only continue but that perhaps it had gained a bit in the last few years:

In '76 [the Parti Québécois] got exactly the same amount of votes that they got yesterday. . . . But [in '76] the people voted to get rid of the [Liberal provincial] government

for a lot of reasons but [all of them] didn't agree with sovereignty-association . . . still the Parti Québécois managed to get the same amount of votes yesterday, so I think it's small progress for them.

All four of the interviewees believe that the federal government now has the responsibility to reform itself.

Mr. Fox thinks that it can do so and still remain strong:

We [the Liberal government members] feel there has to be a strong national government in Canada, but we don't feel that that is incompatible with having strong provincial governments at the same time. . . . The provinces and the municipalities now spend approximately twice as much as the federal level of government. . . . Let's sit