

information, and freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

With respect to democratic rights, which comprise the right to vote in the election of the members of the House of Commons and of a legislative assembly, the charter will include the right to stand for office in either of these institutions; the requirement that no House of Commons and no legislative assembly continue for longer than five years except in extraordinary circumstances; and the requirement that there be an annual sitting of Parliament and of each legislature.

With respect to mobility rights, the charter will enshrine the right of every Canadian to move freely from one province to another to establish a residence and to seek a job anywhere in Canada, as well as to enter, remain in or leave the country.

Regarding minority language educational rights, the charter will provide that citizens of the English-speaking or French-speaking minority of a province have the right to educate their children in that minority language, wherever numbers warrant.

Finally, respecting legal rights, the charter will include the right to life, liberty, and security; the right to equality before the law; protection against unlawful search or seizure, detention and imprisonment; protection against denial of counsel, undue delay of trial, and cruel or unusual treatment or punishment; and the right to the assistance of an interpreter. Also included are non-discrimination rights, which protect citizens from discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age or sex.

Hon. members may ask themselves why there is a need to entrench rights of Canadians in a Constitution? As a Canadian first, but as a Canadian of Irish Catholic descent, I am all too familiar with the British penal laws which reduced Irish Catholics to chattel status without human rights. Under these penal laws, no Catholic was permitted to own land; no Catholic was permitted to vote; no Catholic was allowed to hold public office; no Catholic was allowed to work in the civil service; no Catholic was allowed to own a weapon; no Catholic was allowed to own property of value over 5 pounds; no Catholic was allowed to be educated in or out of Ireland; no Catholic could earn more than one third of the value of his crops; and no Catholic was permitted to practice as a lawyer, doctor, trader or professional. The Catholic religion was largely forbidden, with no facility to train new priests, and foreign-educated priests were outlawed. All Catholics were compelled to pay a tithe to the Anglican protestant church. This brought on secret masses, and priests, returning from the continent, were hunted down, hanged, drawn and quartered in the diamonds of Ulster townships. We all know what long-lasting effects these dastardly laws had, and are still having in Ireland today.

If the joint resolution before the Canadian Parliament were taking away rights the way the penal laws did, then I could understand why the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) would be opposed to it.

Some hon. members opposite may still think that the penal laws were appropriate. And no doubt, there may be a fringe

element of Vancouverites who believe that no Canadian of oriental extraction should be permitted to own land. There may be a small ill-advised segment of Albertans who believe that no native person should be permitted to vote.

If one believes the media coverage, there seems to be a minority of Torontonians who believe that no Pakistani should be allowed to hold office. Some misguided Quebec separatists may believe that no anglophone should be allowed to work in the Quebec public service. Yes, there may even be the odd Haligonian who might believe that no black should be allowed to own a weapon. I know that hon. members may find it hard to believe, but there may even be a closet bigot or two in the fair city of Saint John who might believe that no francophone should be allowed to own property over a certain value.

It is because extreme right wingers continue to reside in Canada, or, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) refers to them, red-necked yahoos—although no doubt they are few in number—that we are entrenching human rights and freedoms in our new Canadian Constitution.

In closing, may I point out that a substantive measure in the resolution, of the utmost importance to the Atlantic provinces, provides that the Parliament and Government of Canada will be committed to the principle of making equalization payments to the poorer provinces. Both orders of government will be committed to promoting equal opportunities for Canadians, furthering economic development to reduce disparities, and providing essential public services at a reasonable level to all Canadians.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this important question because I believe that passage of this proposal, patriation of the Constitution, and entrenchment of a bill of rights will have important beneficial effects on the people of this country. I say this, however, making it quite clear that I have not been flooded with masses of letters, telephone calls or personal representations on the subject, as so many members in this chamber have said they have.

Mr. Paproski: Talk to Nystrom.

Mr. Orlikow: It has become apparent during the debate which has gone on in this chamber since last October that this bill and the support or opposition to it cuts across all party lines. As I listened to some of my Conservative friends, one would think that, because the New Democratic Premier of Saskatchewan opposes the position taken by the majority of the New Democratic members in Parliament, we are the only party in which there are divisions on this subject.

I point out to my Conservative friends that the Conservative premier of the largest province of this country, namely Ontario, supports the proposal before Parliament and is in opposition to the position taken by almost all of the Conservative members of this Parliament. I point out for their information, in the event they do not know, that the leader of the Liberal Party in Quebec, Mr. Ryan, who will probably be the next premier of Quebec, opposes the constitutional proposal we