

A Critical Chapter in Canadian History

Any consideration as to the role of the CBC during the referendum debate must take place in the context of the sensitivities and the emotions which undoubtedly will be aroused and experienced during this period. It is not too much to say that Canada will be passing through the most difficult - at least among the most difficult - months of its history. The people of one of the founding provinces, Quebec, will be asked, it now seems clear, whether or not for their part they want to remain a part of Canada, a part of the political federation as it evolves and is renewed, or whether they want to establish a separate state having economic links with a Canada which does not include Quebec. This, it seems to me, is the burden of the White paper "Quebec-Canada: A New Deal".

While we do not yet know the precise question which will be asked in the referendum, we can be sure that the debate surrounding the proposals of the Government of Quebec, and the question itself, will give rise to stress within the Canadian community. For you cannot bring into question the being