

The Constitution

ans. Surely it is time to talk about regional co-operation in Canada. At page 9, the study concludes as follows:

We have a clear choice: We can, at this critical time in our history as a nation, continue to balkanize our country's economy, or we can develop a unified Canadian Common Market, with combined interests, shared objectives, and mutually beneficial goals.

We can use our differing strengths as a basis for building a strong Canadian whole. Or we can restructure the individual units, failing in the end to ensure a firm foundation upon which we can develop and strengthen as a nation.

This is the kind of impetus I would like to see not only in the resolution but, indeed, in action through federal-provincial co-operation. I have had some experience in this area; I know it can be done, but it depends upon the attitude of the federal government. Rather than confronting, if the government used a policy of consulting and co-operating, many of these issues would be overcome. The government has been an absolute failure over the last 13 years. It has further perpetuated the barriers and impediments to the free interprovincial movement of goods and services.

I should like to speak briefly about the charter of rights. Again, there are deficiencies. There has been much misleading rhetoric by members on the other side. If we listened to them, we would be led to believe that all of a sudden Canadians will receive a host of new freedoms and rights. That is nonsense. Quite the opposite is true. I submit that the charter will probably limit our freedoms. It will place a new emphasis on the courts, without any changes in the selection process, without any modification of the checks and balances. It will be the judiciary rather than the legislatures who will have the final say.

Mr. MacKay: Who has more compassion?

Mr. Mazankowski: Yes, who has more compassion? We have heard a lot said about multiculturalism. I welcome the incorporation of the spirit of multiculturalism in the Constitution, but when it comes to implementing the spirit of multiculturalism and adjudicating which institution is best qualified or has the most compassion to see that it is instituted in a human fashion, certainly it is not the courts. I would suggest that Parliament is more appropriate.

I should like to deal with the areas of property rights. I am appalled by the hypocrisy of the Liberal Party and the blatancy of the NDP. If ever there was a fundamental right and freedom near and dear to me and the people I represent, property rights are one of the most profound that westerners and all Canadians want preserved.

An hon. Member: What about P.E.I.?

Mr. Mazankowski: We have talked about P.E.I. I think there is a way around that. The right to own and enjoy property is very basic and fundamental. That right is denied as a condition of NDP support. The NDP members do not want it because they say it will impede the government's ability to expropriate, confiscate or nationalize. The right to own land, be it farmland, recreational or family residence, is enshrined in the constitutions of many western nations. It is protected by law and by custom. The right is as fundamental as the

well-being of the society, a right we all know and share. It is as fundamental as freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press. Many of our ancestors in western Canada were lured there by the thrill of owning their own land.

Finally, any charter which does not recognize the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person, or the pre-eminence of a family as a unit, is absolutely deficient. This is the foundation upon which our society was built, upon which our society rests. I could speak about this matter for quite a while, but it has been referred to by most Members of Parliament. Every day we open our proceedings here with a prayer and we swear our oath of allegiance on the Bible. At the end of each throne speech delivered at the opening of a session of Parliament, we ask Divine Providence for guidance in our deliberations. One wonders, when the supremacy of God is omitted, whether this package can be taken seriously. Obviously there must be some reason for the omission. Perhaps it was a condition of the NDP support. It looks as if this package were a package of convenience. When one looks at the dissenting views and the way in which the government has accommodated some and rejected others, one must question the seriousness and whether in fact this is a resolution of convenience.

If we choose to exclude the reference to the supremacy of God, where are we and where are we going? This hypocrisy is further evidenced in the government's refusal to entrench the right to life and to stop the legalized slaughter of the unborn. What could be more fundamental in a charter than the preservation of life itself? I see those as major deficiencies.

In conclusion, I reiterate that the government was not given a mandate to impose a unilateral constitutional package on this nation. It was not given a mandate to impose the degree of state intervention and domination that we see in selected areas of the economy.

It is this deceit, dishonesty and total lack of political integrity which are causing very serious problems and divisions in the country. I submit that the passage of this resolution will exacerbate, not ameliorate, those divisions and that bitterness.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2050)

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of this crucial debate on the future of our country, I would first like to pay tribute to all those hon. members and senators who devoted their time and their very best efforts to the work of the joint committee. I congratulate too the co-chairmen of the committee for their judicious and sober guidance. Most of all, I recognize and congratulate the many Canadians who travelled to Ottawa, many at their own expense, to exercise their right to be heard. This was perhaps the noblest act, for they are the Canadians participating directly in drawing the blueprint for the survival of Canada.