

Another star in the Union



So you want to be an American?

Apparently, up to three-quarters of Americans wouldn't mind at all if we joined their country. According to a press release issued in January of the Expansionist Party (XP) of the United States, "public opinion polls show that two-thirds to three-quarters of people in the U.S. favour admitting Canada into the Union."

All Canada would have to do would be give up its constitution, its laws, its government, its crown corporations, and any sense that it is a distinct society from that of the United States.

XP's chair, L. Craig Schoonmaker says there are great benefits to be reaped by Canadians, and the world in general, if Canada and the U.S. were to join in a permanent union. He emphasized that the concept of nations joining together into giant "super-nations" is the trend of the future, using the European Economic Community as an example.

"...the greatest nation in the history of the world."

The EEC is planning to erase its borders by 1992 and become one large country, presumably called 'Europe.' It will work toward establishing a 'European' identity, and a much stronger economy by creating a unified currency and lifting trade barriers and tariffs. Schoonmaker envisions the same future for Canada and the U.S. "Canada and the U.S. joined together would, by many measures of wealth, dynamism, and culture, be the greatest nation in the history of the world."

In an XP press release, Schoonmaker outlines what would happen if Canada and the U.S. were to join:

★ Canada would adopt the U.S. constitution and federal laws.

★ The Canadian federal government would be dissolved, its administrative departments, civil service, military, etc. would merge with their U.S. counterparts.

★ U.S. currency would replace Canadian, at par, \$1 Canadian being treated as equal to \$1 U.S.

★ Canadian benefit programs with U.S. equivalents would merge into those equivalents, while social programs without equivalents would be the responsibility of each individual state to enact or phase out.

★ Canadian taxes would be replaced by American taxes.

★ Each new Canadian state would send two senators to the U.S. Senate and as many representatives to the House as its population warrants, at the rate of about one representative per 525,000 people.

'freed' from metric.

★ Canadians would be 'freed' from metric.

★ The Atlantic provinces, including Newfoundland, would become one large state. The possibility of a similar merger involving the three Prairie provinces is also discussed, as is the question of whether to unite the two territories with Alaska, or to simply divide them up between the various Canadian states.

★ Each Canadian state would add a star to the flag of the U.S., but would retain the right to use the maple leaf, beaver, moose, Union Jack, fleur-de-lis, or any other Canadian symbol as its state flag. State songs are, however, restricted by the U.S. constitution from exalting religion or monarchy, which sounds the death knell to "God Save the Queen."

"United States of Canada"

★ The title 'Canada' would become 'United States of Canada,' in order to better express XP's vision of a harmonious and inclusive community of self-governing states.

★ English would become the only official language, although where there are many speakers of a foreign tongue, services would be offered in that tongue.

XP suggests annexation could be accomplished "by treaty or by simple act of congress, ratified by plebiscite in each new state." A treaty, with provisions to ease the transition and protect U.S. institutions, would prevent Canada from getting equal treatment immediately, or from making changes that would cause friction with other states.

Schoonmaker vehemently denies that his proposal is in any way naive. On the contrary, he says, "it's politically naive to think the globe will not be united."

It's clear that Canadians are unhappy with confederation, Schoonmaker says,

and if Meech Lake collapses in June there will be definite movement towards a union with the U.S.

"The differences between Canadians and Americans are an illusion, if not a delusion, and the present problems between provinces are trivial and amount to nothing," he adds.

Although the situation in the USSR and Lithuania would suggest that huge empires are a thing of the past, Schoonmaker insists that XP's ideas are different because, "unlike empires that have fallen, the U.S. nation would allow its colonies representation."



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"Canada would be empowered instead of being powerless, and Canadians could become full members of a nation with a real national feeling."

Joining is voluntary, but once united the countries would be locked into perpetual union. 50 years must pass before Canada would be allowed to suggest changes to the American constitution.

XP is run entirely by volunteers and has about 600 members worldwide. 135 members are Canadians; 60 are Americans.

President and Vice President elect want to thank you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who got out to vote in this year's elections. The high voter turn out is very encouraging because it shows us that students are concerned and want to be involved in their school's activities. Because our fellow candidates were strong and very determined we were pleasantly surprised at the election results.

Thanks to all those who helped and supported us in our campaign, and we appreciate all those who have voiced their concerns to us already. You have been very helpful.

Our goal for the Student Union has been and will continue to be; **OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION!**

The only way for us to be effective leaders and representatives of the students at Dalhousie is with your help. We urge all students to voice your opinions, ideas and concerns to us in person or through the Student Union Office in the SUB. **OUR DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN!**

We are very excited about our new positions and we are really looking forward to working with everyone in the upcoming year. Good Luck in your exams and have a great summer.

**SINCERELY,
RALPH AND PATTI**

