

The Constitution

union and are giving up significant parts of their sovereignty to form a larger union.

It is not just a trading agreement because out of the trading agreement is also a social agreement. It is an agreement on social policies, an agreement on the environment, an agreement on labour policies and so forth, to ensure that one nation does not have some economic advantage because it has lower wages or lower social policies in order to attract industry. In order to have a free trade type of integration, there must also be an integration of social policies, labour policies and environmental policies.

I would suggest to the leadership in Quebec, particularly the leadership in the PQ, that they take a close look at what a European model for Canada would be, what an economic union would mean. I would suggest to them that an economic union would not be far different from what we have today. In fact, I would suggest that in an economic union Quebec will lose powers that it enjoys today.

I do appeal to the leadership and the people of Quebec to rationally look at the situation. We can go through the angst, the trauma and the anguish of a breakup and then the reconciliation. But it is my deep hope that we can skip that, that we can jointly come to the realization that we have some good things going for us in this country. With God's blessing I hope we can keep our country together.

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Madam Speaker, first I would like to express the appreciation of the people of Wild Rose for the opportunity to offer their views where they feel it will make a difference.

The people of Wild Rose believe in Canada. They represent a good cross-section of Canadians and their views are fair and honest.

They took the time to attend meetings on the Constitution, to telephone, to send me written comments and to meet with me personally to offer their advice. Now I am taking this opportunity to bring to the House their opinions, their ideas and their suggestions.

My presentation will be brief, for although the people discussed many topics briefly, they all placed their emphasis on two or three areas which were usually always the same. They discussed Senate and House of

Commons reform, aboriginal self-government and a distinct society clause for Quebec.

They did dwell on the subject of special powers and a distinct society and that perhaps if one portion of Canada was distinct, the rest of Canada might have a lesser role to play in the making of a nation.

They understand Quebec's historical, cultural and linguistic differences. However, they have a definite reservation when it comes to the word distinct. They believe that the definition of the word means superiority and preferential treatment. They question that one Canadian because of heritage may be better than another one. My constituents believe that all Canadians are equal.

With reference to the subject of language, it is no secret that in my riding many people believe that Canada cannot afford two languages, that our population is not large enough to support the expense of two languages and that French should be the language of Quebec, while English is the language of preference outside Quebec.

One of the participants at the forum stated very eloquently his love for this country and all its distinct regions. Mr. Leatherdale stated that each and every province and territory brings to this country a unique and a distinct contribution.

On House of Commons reform, my constituents urged comprehensive parliamentary reform to the House of Commons and entrenchment of such reforms in the constitutional package. They would like the reform, which would allow members of Parliament to be responsive to the constituents and to reduce the adversarial tone of the House while improving the decorum.

On Senate reform, my constituents viewed reform of the Senate as essential. They strongly supported the creation of an elected Senate, equal and effective. They want to see the Senate continue, but in a new and a reformed manner. The solutions as to how and when varied, but all agreed that equal representation by province was needed and that in no way should Senate elections be linked with House of Commons elections.

Over all, the perception is politicians do not listen or are held back from voting the way constituents would like them to. Some believe this is the result of too much involvement by bureaucrats. They also believe that no vote in the House of Commons should be considered a confidence vote unless it is a special non-confidence