

constitutional debates?", you would have said to me, probably unanimously, "Let's get it behind us, let's get on with the economic issues, let's get on with the things that are so important with our day to day lives."

Turning the page on the constitutional debate will enable the country to tackle its economic and social priorities. On the other hand, a "no" means wasted energy. A "no" means a difficult future. A "no" is no solution to our bread and butter economic issues.

Common sense tells you that there are bound to be negative economic consequences that flow from a "no" vote. Common sense tells you that the supporters of a "no" vote are dreaming, at best, if they believe that a "no" vote will not have negative economic consequences for Quebec and for Canada.

Whatever their long range or personal motives may be, we must not allow them to fool themselves or to try to fool other Canadians into believing that a negative vote will produce anything other than negative consequences.

Common sense also tells you that there is something wrong with a group such as the "no" forces, who are quite prepared to tell you what they are against but who respond with total silence when asked to spell out their alternative.

Criticism alone is not good enough, and Canadians in Quebec and across the country have a right to know exactly what Mr. Parizeau, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Manning and the other "no" advocates would do to resolve the constitutional issue.

But let's look at it from another standpoint. Major-General Lewis Mackenzie, who commanded our peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia up until the end of July, said in a recent speech in Toronto that before Canadians voted in the referendum he would have liked to take each and every one of us to spend six hours in Sarajevo, and demonstrate in that way how fortunate we are as Canadians.

We Canadians have a great deal to be proud of, and by and large, we know it. But we tend to be modest and unassuming people, not much given to boasting.

Last April, however, no less an advocate than the United Nations declared to the world something that we ourselves might never have boasted on our own behalf, but which, by and large, deep in our hearts, we know: that ours is the best country in the world to live in. Think of it. The best country. We are so highly