

Mr. Trudeau's vision of centralized authority won't work in a country like Canada, spread over 5,000 miles and with the great diversity of its people. This government believes it is important for the future of Canada to have strong provincial governments and a strong national government, taking responsibility for matters within their respective jurisdictions and working together pragmatically to solve major problems. The Atlantic Accord is a classic example.

I don't believe in universal panaceas, in the great thing that will lead to the solution of all of our economic problems. It is simply too easy to say that the Newfoundland economy has problems because we haven't had a reformed Senate or that we can't solve those problems until we have a reformed Senate. It can become a too convenient excuse to fail to come to grips with the practical problems facing us today.

And on the practical side of things, I think it's time that Mr. Wells' government pulled up its socks and got on with business. Where, for example, is the economic recovery said to be necessary last April and which an Economic Recovery Team was established to achieve? What has been achieved in the provincial economy since last April?

What has been achieved at all in the last seven months other than the reversal of provincial support for ending Quebec's exclusion from the constitution? Will willful refusal of constitutional change by Newfoundland put food on anyone's table, or pay the rent or create jobs?

We are told that Nero fiddled while Rome burned. Is Clyde fiddling constitutionally while Newfoundland burns economically?

Is this the "real change" that Mr. Wells promised, is it confined to his constitutional proposals? I hope not, because if Mr. Wells follows through on his promises and kills the Meech Lake Accord, the prospects for constitutional reform in this country are going to be pretty bleak for a long time to come.

I have sought and I will continue to seek to work closely with the provincial government and Mr. Wells personally to advance the interests of the people of our province. But, cooperation is not a one way street.

I suggest that Premier Wells should come down out of the constitutional clouds and work with the Government of Canada in dealing with the real and present problems of our province. That is what will be most effective in advancing the interests of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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