



Bulletin

Vol. 24, No. 9

February 26, 1969

CONTENTS

Constitutional Conference	1
Canada and China	3
Relief for Nigeria	3
Opening up the North	3
Visitors From Norway	3
National Parks Scholarships	4
School for Fishermen	4
Post-Election Map	4
Mineral Production	4
Third Canadian Satellite	5
Discontented Cows	6
Monthly Index	7

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

The following excerpts are from a statement by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau at the opening of the constitutional conference in Ottawa on February 10:

...Canada is the product of understanding, not conflict: we are the trustees of reasonableness, not violence. Canadians want their country to move forward calmly and deliberately. This is our way and it is the right way. It has worked and we must continue to make it work.

For the next three days, the focal point of our discussions will be the constitution. I know that many people think of the constitution as a dry and technical document best left to lawyers and politicians. Certainly the British North America Act is not very inspiring to read. But it affects every Canadian - and therefore it concerns every Canadian. Every one of us has a stake in our political system. How well that system works, and whether it can continue to work at all, depend on the constitution....

It was during our centennial year that many Canadians, and their elected representatives, came to recognize that a revision of the constitution was essential to the future of this country. That realization set in motion the process which has led to this meeting.

One of the first steps was Premier Robarts' Confederation of Tomorrow Conference, at which many provincial leaders spoke of the urgency of constitutional revision. This feeling was reaffirmed at the first federal-provincial constitutional conference last February, and it led us to undertake a comprehensive review of the constitution. We agreed

to set up a Continuing Committee of Officials to carry out the preparatory work....

We do not underestimate the difficulty of our task. Although a great deal of work has been done since last February, most of the problems which gave rise to the demand for revision remain unsolved and some may have become even more acute. Recent events clearly show that uncertainties over the proper roles for Ottawa and the provinces, and over the rights of our two major language groups, have not diminished. What was true a year ago is no less true today. We must remove these uncertainties through constitutional reform....

CONSTITUTION IS THE NUB

We have heard suggestions that this meeting should set aside the constitution and concentrate on these day-to-day social and economic problems. After all, we can see they exist, we can see they are important, and we can see they must be solved. But there comes a time when the search for short-term solutions, the reliance upon temporary adjustments, must not be allowed to stand in the way of an examination of the underlying problems. All of us know that, when two men of goodwill disagree persistently over a common and urgent problem, there must be some disagreement on basic principles. And we know