

*Equalization:* The principle of paying equalization grants to the poorer provinces should be written into the new constitution, all said, although British Columbia had reservations about the wording.

*Matrimony:* Everyone agreed that jurisdiction over marriage and divorce should be transferred from the federal government to the provinces.

## TWO ON LINE

*Offshore Oil and Gas:* All agreed that the federal government and the coastal provinces should share in the development of and revenues from offshore oil and gas.

*Taxes:* Everyone agreed that the provinces should be able to levy sales taxes and collect royalties on resources. The indirect taxing of other goods is yet to be discussed.

## ONE IN MOTION

*Fisheries:* The federal government agreed to consider the coastal provinces' request that they be given some authority over offshore fisheries.

## EIGHT TO GO

*Cable Television:* Nine provinces and Ottawa agreed to transfer some authority over cable television from the federal to the provincial governments. Quebec held out for transfer of authority over all communications systems.

*Federal Spending:* The federal government offered to spend money on provincial matters, such as health care, only if the programs had support from a clear majority of the provinces. Everyone but Quebec accepted the offer.

*Natural Resources:* Ottawa agreed to make it

clear that natural resources fall under provincial jurisdiction except in cases involving "compelling national interest." Alberta and Quebec refused the qualification.

*Supreme Court:* Seven provinces and Ottawa agreed that three of the nine Supreme Court judges should be from Quebec. Quebec and Alberta wanted to restructure the court as a "constitutional" body, with the provinces picking the judges. British Columbia went along with the majority proposal but wanted one of the judges to be always a British Columbian.

*Senate:* Ottawa and British Columbia wanted provincial appointments to the Senate. Most provinces were indifferent. Alberta was opposed.

*Charter of Rights:* All but Manitoba and Quebec wanted a basic human rights charter written into the constitution, but there was less agreement on language rights. Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the federal government wanted French and English education rights fixed in the constitution. The rest did not.

*Declaratory Power:* The federal government was willing to trim its power to rule that particular projects are to "the advantage of Canada." Some provinces wanted less trimming; some wanted more; and no one agreed with anyone else.

*Patriation and Amending:* The federal government and six provinces were willing to bring the constitution home from Great Britain with or without first finding an amending formula. Saskatchewan and Quebec were not willing to do so before substantial revisions in the division of power were made.

## The Task Force Reports

In January new elements were added to the general constitutional debate. The Task Force on Canadian Unity filed its recommendations after a series of public hearings across the country.

It warned that Canada is "in the midst of a crisis which requires a rapid and determined response." The report, drafted by the Task Force's co-chairmen, Jean-Luc Pepin and John Robarts, recommended giving the provinces complete control over language and education, and reaffirmed the long-established contention of Quebec's leaders that the province is the homeland of the French-Canadian nation.

The general tone of the report was well received in both Ottawa and Quebec. Quebec Liberal leader Claude Ryan called the report's recommendations on Quebec "without a doubt the most

explicit, the least ambiguous and most courageous ever to come on this issue from a federal organism." Prime Minister Trudeau, however, termed the suggestion that the protection of minority language rights be left entirely at the discretion of the provinces "dead wrong" and reiterated his desire to see language guarantees embedded in a new constitution.

The report made many specific recommendations, some of which would alter present practices greatly, some of which would not:

- That a Council of the Federation with 60 members, weighed in favour of the smaller provinces, replace the Senate. It would have veto powers over some federal legislation in areas of provincial domain.