

31. The preamble of the Constitution should provide that every Canadian should have access to adequate federal, provincial and municipal services without having to bear a disproportionate tax burden because of the region in which he lives. This recommendation follows logically from our acceptance of the principle of equality of opportunity for all Canadians.

32. We completely accept the following objective as stated in the Victoria Charter:

The promotion of economic development to reduce disparities in the social and economic opportunities for all individuals in Canada wherever they may live.

As in the case of redistribution of income among individuals and for the same reasons, this objective should be recognized in the preamble of the Constitution.

### PART III—FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS

#### *Chapter 12—The Head of State*

33. Because of the state of divided opinion in Canada, the Committee does not recommend any change in the monarchical system at the present time.

34. The Committee itself prefers a Canadian as Head of State, and supports the evolutionary process by which the Governor General has been granted more functions as the Head of State for Canada. Eventually, the question of retaining or abolishing the Monarchy will have to be decided by way of clear consultation with the Canadian people.

#### *Chapter 13—The Senate*

35. The present full veto power of the Senate over legislation should be reduced to a suspensive veto for six months according to the following formula: a bill may become law without the consent of the Senate (1) if the House of Commons, having once passed it, passes it again no less than six months after it was rejected or finally amended by the Senate, or, (2) if, within 6 months of third reading of a bill by the House of Commons the Senate has not completed consideration of it, and the House of Commons again passes it at any time after the expiration of the 6 months, but any period when Parliament is prorogued or dissolved shall not be counted in computing the 6 months.

36. The investigating role of the Senate, which has gained more importance in recent years, should be continued and expanded at the initiative of the Senate itself, and the Government should also make more use of the Senate in this way.

37. The Government should be entitled to introduce in the Senate all bills including money bills but excluding appropriation bills, before their approval by the House of Commons, provided that, in the case of money bills, they should be introduced by the leader of the Government in the Senate on behalf of the Government.

38. The distribution of Senators should be as follows: Newfoundland 6, Prince Edward Island 4, Nova Scotia 10, New Brunswick 10, Quebec 24, Ontario 24, Manitoba 12, Saskatchewan 12, Alberta 12, British Columbia 12, the Yukon Territory 2, and the Northwest Territories 2: a total of 130.

39. All Senators should continue to be appointed by the Federal Government: as vacancies occur in the present Senate, one-half of the Senators from each Province and Territory should be appointed in the same manner as at present; the other half from each Province and Territory should be appointed by the Federal Government from a panel of nominees submitted by the appropriate Provincial or Territorial Government.

40. The personal requirements for appointment to the Senate should be limited to those required for eligibility as an elector in the Canada Elections Act, plus residence in the province for which a Senator is appointed. The Quebec structure of electoral divisions should be abolished.

41. The compulsory retirement age for all new senators should be seventy years. Upon retirement, Senators should retain the right to the title and precedence of Senators and the right to participate in the work of the Senate or of its Committee, but not the right to vote or to receive the indemnity of Senators.

#### *Chapter 14—The House of Commons*

42. The mechanism of redistribution of seats in the House of Commons as well as the limitations implied in the 15 per cent rule and the Senate rule should be retained in the Constitution. The formula of representation, however, subject to our recommendations on the Bill of Rights, should be the exclusive prerogative of the House of Commons, to be dealt with by ordinary legislation.

43. Every House of Commons should continue for four years, from the day of the return of the writs for choosing the House and no longer, provided that, and notwithstanding any Royal Prerogative, the Governor General should have the power to dissolve Parliament during that period:

(1) when the Government is defeated

(a) on a motion expressing no confidence in the Government; or

(b) on a vote on a specific bill or portion of a bill which the Government has previously declared should be construed as a motion of want of confidence; or

(2) when the House of Commons passes a resolution requesting dissolution of Parliament.

#### *Chapter 15—The Supreme Court of Canada*

44. The existence, independence and structure of the Supreme Court of Canada should be provided for in the Constitution.