

That is a question I cannot answer. But I do know that for all Canadians, and for Quebecers in particular, it would be another wasted chance to end ongoing uncertainties about our political future.

I do know that renewed political uncertainty would result in increased pressures in favour of Quebec's independence with its political, social, economic and financial implications. That would not be good for our economy.

A "no" vote would also mean ongoing and legitimate concerns for Anglophones and other cultural minorities about Canada's future, concerns shared by the rest of Quebec's population. So you have to ask yourself, is it worth the risk? I do not think so.

Could we get a better deal if we reject it? I do not think that is likely either. There is a good reason why I say that.

All of the leaders who were involved in the negotiations have faced criticism when they returned home to their communities: criticism on what they gave up, criticism that they did not go far enough, criticism that they did not get enough. I think it is quite unrealistic to expect those same leaders to come back to the table after October 26 and expect them to have a greater degree of flexibility than they have now.

Some people say, let's scrap it all. Let's leave it to a new generation of politicians. That would take another 5, 10 or 15 years to happen. I do not think for a minute that people who are anxious to have a triple-E Senate are going to sit around and wait for another 15 years. I do not think that the Aboriginal leaders who have been seeking self-government are ready to wait that long.

Certainly those who are pressing in the province of Quebec for separation are not going to sit by and wait for another 10 or 15 years either.

So, my friends, we would be right back at the negotiating table. We would be right back in the constitutional debate on October 27 if there is a "no" vote, with less chance of obtaining an honourable compromise.

I think we should ask ourselves, "Why would we want to take that risk? Why would we want to continue these endless constitutional talks that have been going on for years and years now?"

If I had been in this room two or three months ago, and I had asked you the question, "What should we do about the