

*The Constitution*

and a formula is proposed in our amendment which would be much more fair to the regions. But now we have a number of classes of provinces. Every time we have to face this amending formula in the west and the maritimes, we will remember this process.

The Constitution of our nation should be amended in such a way as to provide protection for those who are considered weaker. We in the west are only considered weaker in the sense that we have less population than other provinces. That is the manner in which we have grown and in which we have entered this federation which we call Canada. The amending formula produces strong provinces, Ontario and Quebec, and it gives them a veto. It produces provinces which have much less protection, the regions, the prairies, B.C. and the maritime provinces. Now we are faced with an amendment, an amendment which requires three provinces in western Canada to defeat an amendment and only two provinces to pass an amendment. I see the time coming when an attempt will be made by this government not so much to remove the resources of western Canada as to search for funds. An attempt will be made to take away the wealth of the area and to distribute it by an amending formula as we find it necessary to meet certain demands in this country. That is when we in western Canada will remember the amending formula and the process by which it was imposed upon us.

● (1750)

We have been forced to move various amendments. The speaker before me spoke about the many groups and organizations which have come to this House to attempt to tell members of Parliament about the problems they see in this resolution regarding property rights. I ask that hon. member whether he has ever had his property expropriated. He should talk to my neighbours and to me. I know the feeling. It is not a very nice feeling when you are in that position. I suggest this government should tell all Canadians that their property cannot be expropriated unless the due process of law is observed and proper compensation is made. That is not the case in many provinces of Canada. That is why that amendment is so important.

Amendments to include the supremacy of God, equal rights regarding men and women and the right to legislate as far as capital punishment and abortion are concerned have been moved. These are important amendments. But what do we face? Again, we face the problem of process. We are now forced to vote on an omnibus amendment.

Even the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) asked how he could deal with this resolution when he had to trade off offshore rights versus human rights. He has put us in the same position tonight when we vote on these amendments. We shall have to trade off rights for native people, which I suggest are anaemic, versus equal rights for men and women; or the amending formula, which we find offensive to certain parts of this country, versus the supremacy of God. We support the inclusion of the supremacy of God. But who is going to be the Solomon tonight? Who is going to do the dividing in half?

Perhaps some hon. members will remember the story in the Bible of a baby being brought before Solomon. Two women were claiming it. Solomon declared that the baby should be cut in half. The baby's mother objected and asked for the baby to be given to the other person. Although Solomon was able to rule on that point, how do we rule tonight? How do I vote tonight when I agree with half of the amendment and disagree with the other half? It is impossible. We are again put in a certain position by a process which is wrong from the start.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Schellenberger:** I represent a riding in the province of Alberta. There is great disapproval for this resolution and the process by which we are imposing it. My constituents, my premier, the other parties in the province of Alberta, many provincial parties and governments in western Canada and the other seven premiers who oppose this resolution are doing so because they feel strongly about it. They are doing so in the only place they can, through the courts. They are doing so also through public opinion. If you believe the Gallup polls, the majority oppose the process of unilateral action. The feeling is so strong that it is not just a feeling of alienation any more, it is a genuine discussion of western separation. We are faced with the imposition of an amending formula which, in the future, may attack us in such a manner that we will not be able to accept it. When I speak on the issue, I do so as an Albertan representing Albertans, but I also speak on the issue as a Canadian representing Canadians. The two do not have to be in opposition to one another.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Schellenberger:** In this entire constitutional debate, the greatest concern has been the process. Instead of the government and the people sitting down together to draft a new Constitution, a new document for this country with which Parliament can deal, we are left with the option of amending a package written by a few people in government and thrust upon this nation.

There are other ways. My leader has mentioned that when you seek unanimity, when you seek the right to deal with something and you seek that out, you can find it. That was proved by the late Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker.

I notice, Mr. Speaker, that you have also heard the traditional knock on the door.

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## THE ROYAL ASSENT

[*Translation*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows: