

REFERENDUM ISSUE, THEY WILL NOT OF THEMSELVES SAVE CANADA. THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT THE OUSTING OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE SEEN BY MANY CANADIANS AS THE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT ON SEPARATISM.

BUT, EVEN ON THE NARROWER ISSUE, ALL CANADIANS HAVE AN OBVIOUS STAKE IN THE REFERENDUM. THAT STAKE IS NOT JUST THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC, BUT THE FUTURE OF CANADA. THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO STATING UNEQUIVOCALLY WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO CANADA IN THE PARTI QUEBECOIS REFERENDUM PROPOSALS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE QUEBEEKERS BE TOLD BY THEIR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHAT THE FEDERALIST OPTIONS ARE AND SHOWN HOW THEIR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED BEST WITHIN THE CANADIAN FRAMEWORK.

IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT THE REST OF CANADA SHOULD STAND ALOOF FROM SUCH A MOMENTOUS STRUGGLE AND THOSE QUEBEEKERS, INCLUDING SOME FEDERALISTS, WHO SEE THIS ISSUE AS THEIR CONCERN ALONE, MAY BE WELL MEANING, BUT THEY ARE WRONG.

THE PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REPRESENT AND SPEAK FOR ALL CANADIANS, INCLUDING QUEBEEKERS, ON NATIONAL ISSUES AND IN AREAS OF FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY. NOTHING FITS THESE CRITERIA MORE THAN THE THREATENED DISMEMBERMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBTS: SEPARATISM IS THE ENEMY OF ALL CANADIANS AND ALL CANADIANS MUST OPPOSE IT VIGOROUSLY.