



Claude Ryan addresses the Liberal Party leadership convention in 1978.

now has some 27 per cent of the population) would continue to name at least 25 per cent of the members even if its relative population should drop. (Population forecasts indicate that as the western provinces grow, the political power of French-Canadians could eventually be affected. The proposal for a minimum Quebec representation is a result of a widespread concern among Quebecers, a concern also expressed in the Quebec government's white paper.)

Language Rights

Language rights would be enshrined in a constitutional section called the "Charter of Rights and Liberties." French and English would remain official languages of federal institutions but provinces would be able to pass their own laws, subject to certain safeguards. Ontario and New Brunswick, which have sizeable French-speaking minorities, as well as Quebec and Manitoba, would have to provide extensive bilingual services. In the words of the Liberal Party document: ". . . the right of any French- or English-speaking, as well as any native person (Indian or Inuit), to be served by the federal government in their language" would be preserved where numbers justify it.

Persons facing felony charges would have the right to be tried in their own language and both French and English speakers would have the right, where their numbers warranted it, to have health and social services administered in their native tongues as well as French or English radio and television programs. All Francophones, Anglophones and native peoples would have the right to primary and secondary education in their native tongues.

Federal and Provincial Jurisdiction

Canada's ten provinces would be equal to each other on a legal level, their boundaries would be inviolate and they, like the Federal Government, would each be "sovereign and autonomous" in their fields of jurisdiction. Both levels of govern-

ment would have the power to levy taxes for their own purposes. The provinces would retain jurisdiction in matters of education, "human development" and other matters of health and social service. They would have authority over cultural matters including the arts, literature, cinema, the theatre, radio and television programming, music, libraries, publishing and sports; and they would have control of natural resources including mining, oil, gas, hydroelectric resources and lands and forests. They would (and this would be a significant change) have the right to regulate offshore resources in adjacent territorial waters.

Emergency Powers

The Federal Government would have the right to declare a state of emergency and exercise emergency powers, but in an apparent reference to the invoking of the War Measures Act in 1970 when some civil liberties were suspended, the paper proposes that "certain fundamental rights could not be suspended under any circumstances," and that declarations of emergency affecting a single province could not be made without the specific approval of that provincial government.

Reaction

The *New York Times* quoted Claude Ryan as saying, "If the views of the Quebec Liberal Party prove to be unacceptable outside Quebec, what is left?" The initial reactions have, in fact, been generally favourable but sometimes cautious.

Pierre Trudeau was restrained. He said only that the paper was "a well-prepared document, serious, not revenge-seeking . . . I took great pleasure in reading it." Trudeau had himself made some of the proposals, such as a constitutional charter of language rights. He had firmly opposed