

I say to the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, quite straightforward by, that I think he could well consider making the conversion complete. I now extend to him on behalf of the Saskatchewan caucus of the Conservative party, a welcome into our ranks where he can stand up and fight with colleagues unanimously behind him.

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

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** The resolution before us is not going to be weakened by anything I am going to say. It is unfortunate, however, that the resolution should be introduced in the middle of what has been going on in Canada in the last few years, particularly the last five or six months.

I was in the state of Washington last weekend. As I was driving to my destination I heard the American radio stations mention "scam". I knew it was a new word so I looked it up in these new dictionaries. As far as I can tell, it means fraud, it means manipulation, it means phony advertising. What made it news that day was the fact that three legislators in the state of Washington had just finished a four or five-month trial for "scamming"—conspiring to fool people. By God, if that is not what we have had in Canada these last four or five months, I wonder what we have been doing!

**An hon. Member:** The last 17 years.

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

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Scam seems to have become part of the political techniques of all political parties but to use it when we are discussing something of common interest to all political parties, the constitution, just goes too far. You do not have to go through the processes as if you were a General Motors or Ford or Chrysler. If you have a lousy car, you put millions of dollars into advertising and claim that it is the best car that was ever built. You con the poor suckers into it. The suckers cannot jump out, unfortunately, but eventually the car companies go broke. Other people come in and provide something better, closer to what the people need but, by God, for 15 or 20 years they really take you to the cleaners.

Scam is such a serious issue in the United States—and I think their politics are just a shade lower in level than ours—that these trials are taking place in state after state. It is so bad down there that I even hear people talking about bringing the presidential candidates who are now running for the three parties—or the two parties and the independent—up on charges of scam. They believe they have a right to charge these people for trying to fool them. The main charge they would level against them is conspiracy to defraud. By God, have we not got conspiracy and fraud going on here?

**An hon. Member:** That is Liberalism.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** I should like to suggest in plain and simple terms tonight that the British

### *The Constitution*

North America Act, drawn up by Canadians in Canada, is a good act and a good constitution. Not only has it served this country for over 100 years but it can serve us for another 100 years. There would be no trouble at all dealing with any of our problems, provided there was good feeling and a will to co-operate between the various elements and the levels of government.

I speak from the knowledge of how I have seen the situation deteriorate. If I have time, I may deal with the co-operative federalism we tried to get going from 1957 to 1963. I should like to bring matters more up to date, however.

What is the real issue we are talking about in Canada today? What is the real basic quarrel that is going on? It is not the French fact. Every province in the country, to my knowledge, is trying its level best to get that situation resolved. What we are fighting over in Canada is the same thing we were fighting for before we were a country.

If we look at the early history of the French colony and the English colonies, we see that the battle was over land. What we now call Quebec had small seigniorial farms of 30 or 50 acres, but people could not make a living on that. In the western colony of Ontario the clergy reserves took up the choice pieces of land. There was a tremendous demand for land and things were the same in the United States. The question was finally resolved by moving people westward. When we brought our government into being in 1867, Cartier, speaking on behalf of his part of the country, saw a great opportunity for the hard-pressed farmers of what is now Quebec to go west and share in the great desert out there. Many in this House know why they did not go. People from many countries, from the Atlantic area, from the eastern townships, and from Ontario did go. Thank God, they did, because the Americans were coming in from the south to take it anyway. We made a dominion from sea to sea. Unfortunately, not enough of the sons and daughters of those who worked on these small farms in Quebec joined us in that great adventure.

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Land today is still in short supply, but there is something else beneath the land which attracts us. We have discovered that underneath our land, as a result of the productivity of the last two inches of soil, there is a tremendous wealth to be found in aquifers—water, if you like, underground streams and rivers—which is in far greater quantity than all the Great Lakes. At the bottom of the sedimentary areas, great wealth of thermal heat can be found which is hundreds of times greater than all the wealth in the hydrocarbons. When you realize that this wealth is there, who do you suppose wants to get in on the act? What we have witnessed is a battle this last decade or so between the civil servants at the provincial level who are trying to hang on to what they have got and the civil servants at the federal level—in the finance department—trying like the devil to get a hold of it. They are fighting for land now in the new form, and they fight for the taxes on it. So here we are with a federal government, with a highly efficient tax group of people