

1 function last September is probably, also, a reflection of
2 the times--just as my predecessors, 110 years ago, were
3 appointed to see the implementation of a new system.

4 I suppose that my appointment is related to
5 changes that are in the making and which -- I think
6 unavoidably -- will be taking place in the Canadian
7 Constitutional system over the next few years.

8 My role, essentially, is to coordinate current
9 affairs in the area of Federal/Provincial Relations.
10 This is an area -- if I might compare it to the United
11 States, for instance -- which has been growing very,
12 very extensively over the last ten or fifteen years.

13 It is estimated, for instance, that we have
14 something like about 400 Federal/Provincial meetings a
15 year, of all kinds, at the Ministerial level or at the
16 Official level. It is estimated that, with any reasonably
17 large province, we have over 300 Federal Provincial
18 Agreements in operation. So this gives you an idea of the
19 extent of the close, direct relationship that there is
20 between the Provincial level and the Federal level in
21 Canada.

22 In addition, obviously, to try and coordinate
23 this great network of relationship, there is, obviously,
24 the responsibility of supervising the work having to do
25 with our crisis in unity in Canada and, particularly, the