

It's Closer Than You Think

Early in 1977 **The Memphis Commercial Appeal** sent E.W. Kieckhefer to Canada. Mr. Kieckhefer wrote a series of stories on life and politics there and was pleasantly surprised at the reaction. One response came from the May-in-Memphis festival, which made life in Canada its theme that year.

Since then **The Commercial Appeal** has given Canada considerable attention, and last spring Mr. Kieckhefer went back to write about the Quebec referendum. On this trip he ran into an old friend, the editor of **The Boston Globe's** editorial page, who asked why Memphis was so interested in Canada. Mr. Kieckhefer replied, *Because it is so close*. As he pointed out, Memphis is barely 700 miles from the Canadian border at Windsor. It is closer to Canada than it is to Mexico or, for that matter, to Boston.

The Eyes of Texas

The **Houston Chronicle** devoted substantial coverage to the referendum, and it put together a clear and concise summation of the results.

It said in part:

The No triumph showed, of course, that many French Quebecers had not yet lost patience with Canada's troubled federal system.

... it is uncertain how the other nine Canadian provinces, each with its own personality and economic objectives, will react. ... The mainstream of Quebecer opinion ... has been in favor of more power for the provincial government while keeping the federal government in Ottawa at arm's length.

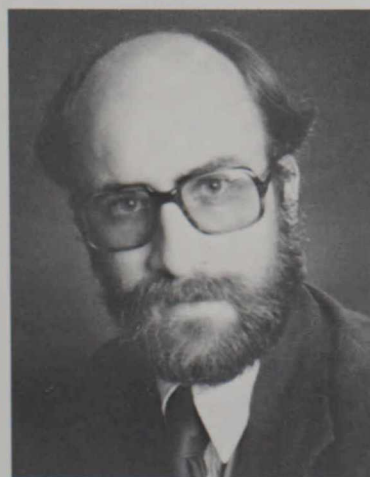
The Houston Post devoted a "Post/Commentary" column to the state of the Canadian nation:



E.W. Kieckhefer
The Memphis Commercial Appeal



Michael Berryhill
Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Paul De Groot

To an American governor, Canada's ten provincial first ministers look powerful, its provincial governments have a healthy sovereignty.

Michael Berryhill of the **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** said in a post-referendum piece: *Writing a new constitution will not be easy. Americans nearly failed to ratify theirs almost 200 years ago, when the original thirteen colonies were banded loosely together under the Articles of Confederation.*

Way Out West

The Seattle Times' coverage of the referendum emphasized the turmoil before and after the event. A wire story on May 15 commented on *mounting bitterness*, and the same day, Paul De Groot, identified as a Canadian journalist writing from Victoria, B.C. (he is actually a former American, now a Canadian citizen), phrased the basic question to be decided as, *Are French Canadians in Quebec so distinct that their best interests will be served by an independent nation?*

On referendum evening, the **Times** focused attention on hundreds of [Lévesque's] young supporters [who] marched through the English-speaking Montreal suburb of Westmount, and on a single incident in which some of them apparently roughed up a TV technician.

On Sunday Paul De Groot wrote approvingly that *Levesque made no attempt to wrest a moral victory of some kind from the result by fiddling with the figures*, and added that both sides were moderate in their post-referendum statements. *If such conciliatory rhetoric, all too absent during the sometimes bitter Referendum campaign, can last beyond the voting night statements, Canada will be in a good position to capitalize on this latest exercise in democracy.*