

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

WHILE PUTTING GREAT EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION, WE MUST, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO TAKE OTHER STEPS TOWARDS GREATER NATIONAL UNITY. SOME OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, A SUBJECT THAT WILL BE MUCH DISCUSSED IN COMING MONTHS.

IT IS CLEAR FROM ALL OF THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADA IN RECENT YEARS THAT THE TIME FOR LEISURELY, PIECE-MEAL DIALOGUE ON NATIONAL UNITY IS OVER. THE ELECTION OF A SEPARATIST GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC IS NOT THE ONLY REASON FOR THE NEW URGENCY; IN SOME RESPECTS IT IS NOT EVEN THE MOST IMPORTANT. ITS GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE IS THE MUCH SHARPER FOCUS IT HAS GIVEN TO AN HISTORIC EVER PRESENT PROBLEM.

IT WOULD BE A MAJOR MISTAKE, HOWEVER, TO ASSUME THAT THE DEFEAT OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS WILL END THE PROBLEM. THE TASK OF RECONCILIATION AND REFORM PRE-DATES THE PARTI QUEBECOIS VICTORY AND WILL REMAIN TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE PARTI QUEBECOIS IS GONE.

THOSE WHO MAINTAIN THAT DEFEATING THE SEPARATISTS CAN BE LEFT SOLELY TO THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC ARE ONLY RIGHT IN THE NARROW SENSE THAT IT IS QUEBECERS WHO WILL VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM, AND THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION WHEN IT COMES. BUT, WHILE THESE ACTIONS MAY DEFEAT QUEBEC SEPARATISM, AS A