

House of Commons, and party discipline requires a united public face. Regional and other differences are ironed out in caucus. Members who disagree with the party generally abstain or, on rare occasions, move to the other side of the house. Canada's Senate was created to give representation to the various regions. In modern times its appointed members have served more as advisors than as legislators. Regional differences are now resolved in federal-provincial conferences, which have become a significant tool of government and a regional safeguard, though not part of the formal constitutional structure.

[ECONOMICS]

Economic limitations often match provincial borders. Maritimers, rich from the sea at the time of Confederation, lack the currency of the late twentieth century—oil, gas, industry, wheat and cattle. Alberta is oil-rich, but it resents the fact that it has little industry. Western cattle farmers and wheat growers have their special interests, while Quebec industrialists want protection for their textiles and shoes. On the other hand, Que-

becers gain from lower energy costs, and Manitobans wear stylish Quebec shoes. The strong help the weak through tax credits and regional development. Prosperity is shared if not equally divided. The economic facts of Canadian life must continue to be unifying if the Confederation is to thrive. Each province must feel that despite irritations and sacrifices, it gains from being a part.

[THE NORTH]

The mass of Canada "North of 60" binds Canadians together. It is rich in oil and minerals, and Canadians take pleasure in that; it's nice to have rich connections even if your share is small and your title as an individual is remote. But the fascination of the North had a hold on farmers in Manitoba and apartment dwellers in Montreal long before the first well was drilled. It is a last frontier—vast, frightening, challenging—and it is Canada's own. To be a Canadian is to feel just a little heroic—to be one of the special people who build ice roads, smash through ice floes, survive on the barrens and are imperilled forever by nature in the raw.

A Brief History of the Founding Peoples

[FROM THE BEGINNING OF QUEBEC TO THE RISE OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS]

The state of Canadian unity or disunity at any given moment is determined by many elements. In this historical summary we focus on the most conspicuous one, the relations between those who speak French and those who speak English.

Before 1759: The French king wished his colonists to be farmers. Many preferred to be free-living, fur-trading *coureurs de bois*. A Jesuit

visitor found a prevailing feeling of "frivolity" and a marked spirit of independence.

1759: The British defeat of the French on the

The citizens of Quebec City built sturdy houses with slightly asymmetrical windows and thick fire walls. Quebec rebels, inspired by Louis-Joseph Papineau's example, took up arms at Beauharnois in 1838. The sketch was made by Jane Ellice, one of the rebels' prisoners and the wife of a British official. Louis Riel was a western rebel who became a French-Canadian hero.

