

*The Constitution*

It was also the theme I heard when I had the opportunity to speak before some of our service clubs, schools and other interested organizations, that they indeed want this country to work, but certain things have to change.

If we can go through some of the 28 proposals and some of what my constituents were telling me, to start with the Canada clause, which is the beginning of the 28 proposals, I think the feeling in my riding is that most Canadians like the idea of the inclusion of a Canada clause so that we, for the first time, really explain what we are as Canadians.

The other one that was mentioned very, very frequently was Senate reform. We did not get too much into a Triple-E Senate or what form the Senate would take, other than saying that we in Carleton—Charlotte felt that senators should be elected. I think that was the common thread in the Senate discussions.

On aboriginal rights, the figure was thrown out in just about all 20 meetings that as a federal government we allocate something in the order of \$4.4 billion per year to the Indian community and it is not working. So aboriginal reform, aboriginal right to self-government is something that we support in Carleton—Charlotte, knowing that what we have done up to this point in the history of our country has not worked.

Taking a look at Parliament itself, I have no hesitation at all in telling you that my constituents, again probably reflecting just about every constituency across this nation, feel that we need some reform here in the House of Commons itself, that indeed we can make it better so that members of Parliament have a little more latitude in how they represent their constituents and possibly not be so confined or restrained by party lines.

We also talked about the notwithstanding clause. Many constituents are upset with the fact that while we have a charter of rights, at the same time the notwithstanding clause can take away the rights within that charter. The suggestion there should be some changes or the complete elimination of the notwithstanding clause seemed to be a common theme throughout these talks.

Because the province of New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in the country, we had usually a lengthy discussion every night on distinct society with the understanding that in fact it was nothing

new, but was something we have recognized in this country for the last 200 or more years, but always differing views on it. However, at the end of the evening, most of us accepted the fact that it is a reality that has to be dealt with, that has to be stated and that we can accept as Canadians.

Finally, because my time is running by very quickly, I want to table a brief that was submitted by Heartland Branch No. 24, Royal Canadian Legion. It was sent to me by Fred Hatfield and Percy Toft, chairmen of the unity committee of Heartland Branch 24, Royal Canadian Legion. I want to conclude on this, if I may. One of the things they suggest which is very interesting, very new and I suppose innovative, is that we balance off the guarantees made to us as citizens or groups of citizens in the charter of rights with a charter of responsibilities.

They go on to tell us that these would not be legally enforceable but would express our recognition that democratic governments work by us and through us and not just for us and upon us. Such a charter might include a number of features and they go on to tell us what they are. I do want to table that brief.

I think the underlying concern in my constituency is that we do have a great Canada. We want to continue to have a great Canada, a unified Canada, and we want to do everything possible to make it even better as years go on.

**Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to participate in the debate tonight on the Constitution on behalf of the people of Cardigan, Prince Edward Island. Last fall the government tabled its proposals on the Constitution and the special joint committee started its hearings in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. This was only appropriate because most people are aware that Charlottetown is the cradle of Confederation.

Islanders from all walks of life have followed the constitutional debate closely. At the public meetings in the small towns across P.E.I., Islanders expressed their desire to keep this country together. When you look at the small population of Prince Edward Island, a great number of people came out to the meetings. I certainly wish to congratulate the constituents of Cardigan for showing their great concern for the Constitution and also for showing their great concern for the people of Canada.