



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

August 4, 1965

Vol. 20 No. 31

## CONTENTS

Canada's Need - A New Consensus .....	1
Federal-Ontario Water Resource Study.....	3
Electric-Energy Production .....	3
Finance Pact with East Pakistan.....	3
Soviet Trade Group Visits .....	4

## CANADA'S NEED - A NEW CONSENSUS

The following address was made by the Minister of Forestry, Mr. Maurice Sauvé, to the recent Thirty-fourth Couchiching Conference at Lake Couchiching, Ontario:

...We hear much talk these days of the necessity to amend or revise the Canadian constitution. This is a good sign, as it shows that people are taking seriously the current debate on the unity and the future of Canada. But although I share the widespread belief that changes will eventually be required in our constitution, it seems to me that, before we can agree on specific constitutional amendments, there are several fundamental questions that we and all Canadians ought to consider. Before we can have any meaningful discussion of formal changes in the constitution, we must agree on where we want our country to go.

### COMMON PRINCIPLES BASIC

A written constitution is a very formal document, designed to give publicity and a certain permanent status to a set of principles, objectives and rules under which a society agrees to live. A constitution should reflect and sanction the mutually agreed purposes of a people. It should embody a consensus of public opinion previously arrived at. Without such agreement, a constitution is meaningless, and while general discussion of constitutional questions is beneficial, it would be illusory for us to attempt formal constitutional reform until a consensus is reached on what our basic objectives are.

I do not believe we have yet reached such a consensus in Canada. The consensus of 1867 no

longer prevails. It was based on another world, when Canada was to a large extent dependent on Great Britain and Great Britain was the strongest power in the world. This situation has changed, and the consensus that was founded on it has been eroded by the passage of time and the march of events - particularly the events of the last five years. The situation in 1965 is vastly different from that of 1865, when the foundations of our present constitution were laid. Today we live in a drastically altered world; we face new problems and we have new desires; we therefore need a new sense of purpose, and a new consensus on the kind of country we want Canada to be.

It is my conviction that we must seek this consensus in connection with three great questions in particular. Two of these questions arise from the existence in Canada of two major cultural and linguistic groups. The third relates to the pronounced regional differences in the economy of our country.

### IDEA OF EQUAL PARTNERSHIP

The first question is the fundamental problem of the relationship between English-speaking Canadians and French-speaking Canadians. This is the basic issue, because it affects the vital interests of both groups. In French Canada it would appear that a consensus does exist on this question; it is that our relationship should be one of equal partnership. In English Canada, where there is naturally less awareness of this problem, I am not sure that a consensus exists. So the question is, do English-speaking Canadians agree with French-speaking

(Over)

Canadians that the concept of equal partnership between our two groups must be at the root of any future Canadian constitution?

Before we can discuss this question intelligently, we must agree on what we mean by equal partnership, and what it implies in practice. To me, equal partnership means the effective and real participation of competent French-Canadians in all areas and at all levels of Canadian life – particularly in the fields of public administration, both in politics and the Civil Service, and of business.

In the political sphere, equal partnership means that French-Canadians must have a true and meaningful share in the direction and administration of the country. In the economic sphere, equal partnership means that French-speaking Canadians must have the same opportunities for advancement and senior responsibility as English-speaking Canadians with similar qualifications, in all sectors of economic activity throughout the country.

#### EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Equal partnership does *not* mean numerical equality at all levels and in all fields. French-speaking Canadians form only 30 per cent of the population of this country, and they are fully conscious of the fact. Neither does it mean that they must hold 30 per cent of all positions in a given area, or any other fixed proportion. Above all, it does not mean that any French-speaking Canadian should be promoted to a position for which he is not qualified, simply in order to satisfy demands for equality. Equal responsibility entails equal qualifications. What equal partnership *does* mean, essentially, is true equality of *opportunity* in all fields. There is no need to depart from the principle of promotion according to merit. On the contrary, the point of equal partnership is that this principle must be strictly adhered to, keeping in mind the fact that, in a bicultural country, measurement of a man's merit should include measurement of his bicultural attainments. This is particularly true in the federal Civil Service, which must serve a bicultural population.

Equal partnership has never really existed in Canada. It is now of vital concern to French Canada. Will English-speaking Canadians accept equal partnership? Can formulas be found to make it a reality? These are vital questions, basic to the future of our country.

#### BICULTURAL QUESTION

The second great question on which we must seek a consensus concerns the cultural nature of our country. Do we agree that Canada should be a bicultural country or not? This is another question that French-Canadians regard as vital to Canadian progress. It has nothing to do with bilingualism at the personal level – with whether the average Canadian speaks one language or two. What I mean by biculturalism is the equality of our two major cultures – equal status for the English and the French cultures and languages throughout the country, and equal access to cultural facilities everywhere in Canada.

Are we prepared to translate into reality the ideal of biculturalism? Biculturalism has nothing to do

with the proportion of French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians now living in a given area. Biculturalism implies the equality of French and English cultural services available to all Canadians everywhere in Canada, for the benefit of the whole population – radio, television, books, newspapers, magazines, theatre, cinema and so on – and especially education. In the field of education, biculturalism must not always be linked to religion. Biculturalism in education simply means that education must be available throughout Canada both in the English language and culture and in the French language and culture. If that were the case, then Canadians could freely choose whichever education they wanted, or both if they wanted. The same holds true for other cultural services – there must be no question of *forcing* two cultures on anybody, but simply of making facilities in both cultures *available* to all Canadians, so that they can choose whichever they want.

It is to be hoped, of course, that many Canadians would sample and enjoy both cultures, and would themselves become bicultural citizens of a bicultural country. This is not the primary purpose of biculturalism, but it is perhaps the most rewarding and enriching result of it, and one that would give Canadians a potential for a rich and full life perhaps unequalled anywhere in the world.

#### WHERE BILINGUALISM IS ESSENTIAL

At this point I would like to open a parenthesis on the question of the bilingualism of individuals in certain areas. As I have intimated, I do not think it possible for every Canadian to speak both English and French, wherever he may live in the country. Language is a vehicle of cultural expression, and it is also a vital tool of economic activity. There can be no question of forcing a language on people. Those who want to enjoy two cultures will learn two languages, and those who feel that one language is sufficient for their cultural and economic objectives will not. But there are, nevertheless, certain areas where bilingualism is essential in a bicultural country.

In my opinion, these areas are as follows:

- (1) Where there is a substantial proportion of people of each culture living in the same area, people who deal with the general public should be bilingual. This applies to all government and public services, whether federal, provincial or municipal, and to business and industry as well. Moreover, the administrators of such bodies should also be bilingual in these areas, to ensure fairness and equality of opportunity to all employees.
- (2) The federal Civil Service in Ottawa should be bilingual enough to allow French-speaking Canadians to work in their own language, in order to attract more competent French Canadians to the Federal Government.

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

The third great issue we must face is the chronic problem of pronounced regional differences in the economy of our country. We must assure to all Canadians in all regions of the country a level of

## FEDERAL-ONTARIO WATER RESOURCE STUDY

Prime Minister Pearson recently announced that the Federal Government and the government of Ontario had reached agreement on a series of joint studies of the province's northern water resources and the economic development that depended on them. The text of the announcement follows:

The Governments of Canada and Ontario announced...that they have reached agreement on a series of co-ordinated studies on Ontario's northern water resources and related economic development. The two governments, in recognition of the growing importance of water resources to continued development, have agreed to increase the pace of their studies and to launch new studies where applicable.

The government of Ontario, through the Ontario Water Resources Department, will extend the collection of hydrologic and other pertinent data as part of a long-term plan of establishing an inventory of the scale and nature of the water resources of Northern Ontario. In addition to the foregoing assistance, the Federal Government, through the Water Resources Branch of the Department of National Resources, will launch a series of hydrological engineering studies to investigate the feasibility of the various possibilities of diverting water from one water-basin to another or from one water-course to another if this would bring about a better use of the water involved, having regard to the needs of all users.

In the latter connection, the government of Ontario is mounting a study of the potential economic development of Northern Ontario and the role water

resources will play therein. The Resource Development Branch of the federal Department of National Resources will also study various social and economic aspects involved in water diversion possibilities.

### PART OF LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES

The foregoing studies are part of the long-term programmes of both governments to increase the knowledge of the water resources of Ontario and of the country as a whole. The Federal Government participation recognizes the national importance of water and is part of the Federal Government's national water policy. The latter places emphasis on long-range studies of future water use, as well as current remedial measures provided under the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act.

These programmes listed represent the determination of both governments to work together in a practical way to achieving common aims. A co-ordinating committee will be established representing the two governments for the purpose of arranging the complete exchange of all information gathered by the studies for the benefit of both governments and for co-ordination in the arrangements of studies to avoid overlapping or duplication. The nature of the studies is such that early answers are not expected. However, both governments are fully aware of the urgency of several aspects of water policy and have agreed to press these studies as rapidly as available resources permit.

\*\*\* \*\*

## ELECTRIC-ENERGY PRODUCTION

Production of electric energy in 1963 amounted to 122,238,000,000 kilowatt hours, an increase of 4.0 per cent from the 1962 figure of 117,469,000,000, according to an advance release of data that will be contained in the 1963 issue of the annual Dominion Bureau of Statistics report *Electric Power Statistics*. Generation by utilities in 1963 rose 1.5 per cent, to 93,501,000,000 kwh from 92,096,000,000 in the preceding year, and generation by industrial establishments - mainly for use in their own plants - increased 13.3 per cent, to 28,737,000,000 kwh from 25,373,000,000.

Electric energy made available in Canada in 1963 aggregated 121,510,000,000 kwh, up 4.6 per cent from the 1962 total of 116,135,000,000, while the amount available for disposal totalled 99,315,000,000 kwh, up 6.8 per cent from 93,012,000,000 in the preceding year.

\*\*\* \*\*

## FINANCE PACT WITH EAST PAKISTAN

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced recently that Canada would provide an additional \$5.3 million financing to cover the sale of Canadian diesel and steam electrical-power

generating and transmission equipment and engineering and procurement services to East Pakistan. The financing agreement was signed between the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, which administers the Canadian Government's long-term export-financing programme, and the East Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority, Dacca.

The financing will permit the completion of the second phase of a two-part development known as the Isolated Power Generation and Distribution Project, undertaken in East Pakistan with an initial \$6-million loan made by Canada in June 1963. The project is part of Pakistan's second five-year plan for economic development.

This is the third such agreement to be signed under the special Canadian credit allocation to the Government of Pakistan, and, like the earlier ones, is aimed at financing high-priority capital projects favourable to the development of Pakistan. The terms of the new loan call for repayment in 32 semi-annual instalments after a four-year grace period. The interest rate is 6 per cent a year.

### NATURE OF PROJECT

The power project consists of supplying electrical power to 14 East Pakistan communities with populations ranging from 15,000 to 115,000, which cannot be connected economically with existing power

sources. The power will be used for industrial, irrigation and domestic purposes to facilitate the development of these areas of high-density population.

The first stage of the project, which will be partly in operation by 1966, consists of four complete generating units and distribution systems to supply nine towns. The second stage, now under way, consists of five complete systems for the remaining five towns.

The Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan in Canada, Saeed Akhtar, signed the financing agreement on behalf of the East Pakistan Water and Power Distribution Authority, and A.W. Thomas, Vice-President, and T. Chase-Casgrain, Secretary, Export Credits Insurance Corporation, signed on behalf of ECIC.

\*\*\*\*

### CANADA'S NEED - A NEW CONSENSUS

(Continued from P. 2)

economic activity that will ensure full employment, and a living standard that is within the parameters of a well-defined national average. There must be sufficient economic development to assure the continuous growth of our economy in an orderly fashion, so as to eliminate or alleviate the hardships that are due to economic change or interruption. Once we agree that we must eliminate these regional disparities in standards of living and economic opportunity, then, and only then, will we be ready to adopt the necessary policies of economic planning, co-ordinated regional development and co-operation between government and industry, especially co-operation among governments themselves. If we can agree on the objective of economic equality throughout Canada, we can then discuss what methods are best to attain it.

These, then, are the three major questions upon which we must try to reach a Canadian consensus before we begin discussing the future nature of Canadian federalism. Do we want equal partnership? Do we want biculturalism? Do we want regional economic equality? If we can answer these questions, many of the constitutional and federal questions that now seem so thorny will answer themselves. If we can agree, through public discussion and debate, that we want to guarantee to all Canadians everywhere equal opportunities politically, economically and culturally, then we can design with confidence a new constitution for a Canada that will be truly great. Once we have reached this consensus about our objectives, then we can discuss specific means of realizing these objectives. Then we can decide what sort of constitutional machinery we need, and what particular tasks should be carried out at each level of government. Then we will be able to design a

\*\*\*\*

constitution that will enable both the Federal Government and the provinces to do their respective jobs with confidence, independence and adequate resources, in order to achieve the common goals of the Canadian people in the twentieth century.

And we must never forget that our ultimate goals are human goals; that all our other objectives, even that of building a great bicultural country, are subsidiary to the overriding goal of the freedom of the human spirit. We must transcend our political and economic problems, we must overcome the distractions and difficulties of the day-to-day world, if we are to achieve for all our people the freedom and opportunity for individual fulfilment that mankind so ardently seeks. For it is only in fulfilling the profound desires of every Canadian that we can fulfil the destiny of Canada as a nation in the modern world.

I deeply believe that we have a chance to fashion in this country a quality of life that will enrich our society to a degree hitherto unknown. Our purpose must be the growth of the human spirit, and it is towards this ultimate goal that we must build all our institutions. Material objectives are essential; but they must be at the service of our basic objectives, which are spiritual and intellectual and, above all, human.

This, then, is the challenge before us: can we fulfil the unique promise of Confederation, the promise of a great and prosperous democracy in the new world, nourishing and being nourished by two of the greatest cultures mankind has yet produced? This is our task, and this is our responsibility to Canadians of the past and of the future. If we believe in our country, we must not fail to rise to this challenge, and earn for Canada the great place in the world and in history that is ours for the asking.

\*\*\*\*

### SOVIET TRADE GROUP VISITS

A Soviet trade mission headed by Mr. N.G. Osipov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, visited Canada recently. Its purpose was to explore the possibility of developing increased trade between Canada and the U.S.S.R.

The mission remained in Canada for about three weeks and visited Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and other centres. While in Ottawa, official discussions were held concerning the Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement.

The deputy head of the mission was Mr. A.N. Manzhu, Chief of the Department for Trade with Western Countries. Other delegation members were: Mr. A.I. Lobachev, Mr. N.A. Belousov, Mr. G.I. Sakulin, Mr. N.P. Vlasov, Mr. M.V. Ruchkin, and Mr. Y.A. Katelevsky. Mr. S.F. Chenchikovsky, Soviet Commercial Counsellor in Canada, accompanied the group during its visit.