

Constitutional Crisis

Reaction to letters on the "Constitutional Crisis"

I hesitated before writing this letter but I felt I had to finally answer the question: "What does Quebec want?" Which is the basic notion under that whole idea of a crisis. In UPEI, you may go on if you want, claiming that there is no real crisis going on; but not in Quebec province and therefore not in the rest of the country which will inevitably be influenced by it.

It did not start "as soon as" Meech Lake. It did not start in 1980. It started far more ago than that: 1763 tells you something? Since then, no matter what Quebecers will do (economically, culturally, technologically...), they will always be the "losers", the second ones besides you anglo winners.

We do not want to tear Canada apart; we do not want a war or a fight with our neighbours.

We want to re-gain that pride and equality feeling towards you, and toward ourselves. We want to look ourselves in the mirror and be able to say:

"I did not ask for it. They did not give it to me. I did it myself, on my own. It's all mine."

Because we are not "Canadian" under the same definition that you, because we no more (or never did?) speak the same language, because we do not have the same goals; we can only thrive under Quebecers from Quebec, with the full country meaning of it.

That is the real "crisis" upon me and, as wise as you may say he is, Mulroney won't find an answer to it before next elections.

Quebecoise in UPEI

COMMENTARY

THE CANADA ROUND

Last week the federal minister of unemployment and immigration, Bernard Valcour was at the pit to talk to UPEI students about Canada's new constitutional reforms. But if a stranger had come to the meeting halfway through they would have never known the purpose of the gathering.

Valcour spoke eloquently and from the heart on the reforms and the future of Canada. He spoke of this of being the Canada Round, not the Quebec Round. While Valcour realises how a firm constitution is necessary as a base for the country if it wants to serve the everyday needs of all Canadians but the students at this university don't seem to care about that.

When question and answer time came, UPEI students hounded the minister on the closing of the Canada Employment Centre on campus. I consider this narrowminded and bordering on selfish. I realize the employment centre is important to hundreds of students but I don't consider this meeting the time or the place for it. The rights guaranteed to all Canadians and the staying together of our country should be the first concerns of everyone.

When you don't know where your next paycheck is coming from, you don't have enough money for the next semesters tuition and you are down to your last package of kraft dinner, I know worrying about the constitution is the last thing on your mind. But considering it is the country supplying us with welfare, medicare, and unemployment insurance, maybe it's worth the time to worry. Bob Rae's social charter could sound good now. If anyone from UPEI cares what that is.

Colleen Easter