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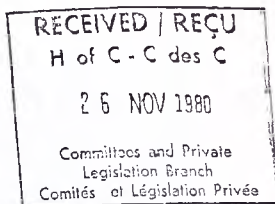
NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLOURED PEOPLE

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

November 24, 1980

Joint Clerks
Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada
P.O. Box 1044, South Block
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A7

Joint Chairmen;
Hon. Senator Harry Hays, P.C.
Mr. Serge Joyal



Dear Sirs;

The executive of N.B.A.A.C.P. wish to convey to you their opinion, that first, the B.N.A. should be patriated. The B.N.A. should become a Canadian Act, and second, a Bill of Rights should be incorporated, this Bill of Rights in our view should be read and endorsed in the light of the recommendations presented to your Committee by the Civil Liberties of Canada.

Because of the time, money and distance, we cannot request to appear before your Committee and explain our views.

Enclosed are copies of letters we have written to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau, the Hon. Joe Clarke, leader of the Opposition and Ed. Broadbent leader of the N.D.P. in the House of Commons.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Hector
Mr. Gordon Hector-President
47 Spar Cove Road
Saint John N.B.
E2K 1R9

Wanda Roche
Ms. Wanda Roche, Rec. Sec.
178 Churchill Blvd.
Saint John N.B.
E2K 3E1

October 6, 1980

The Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

At the last executive meeting of the N.B.A.A.C.P., a resolution was passed which supported the stand of the Prime Minister, in his efforts to patriate the B.N.A.

The executive of our organization believe that the British North American Act, should rightly be in Canada and under the control of the Canadian people. At present the B.N.A. rests in Westminster under the control of the British Government. This custodial function of the British Government gives the impression that Canadians are colonials and incapable of governing themselves. All other people who have severed their governmental ties with Great Britain have their constitutions in their homelands.

Anyone watching the constitutional debates on TV would come to the conclusion, that Canada is made up of ten presidents of banana republics, plus a central government.

After the B.N.A. is in Canada, it should contain a bill of rights that would contain the same rights for all Canadians and these rights will be protected by law.

The "visible minorities"-which at the present time composes one-third of our population and projections show that this percentage will increase to 50% at the turn of the century. The rights of these people are not protected, in fact, they are completely ignored. This condition cannot exist any longer, many of the "visible minorities" have been citizens of Canada as long as the French, having come to Canada with them.

The Parliament of Canada does not have a representative of "visible minorities" and no political party has publicly championed their cause or advocated their elevation to the status of first class citizens.

We would like some time to discuss the relationship of the "visible minority" to the majority white population of Canada.

Respectfully submitted
Mr. Gordon Hector, Pres. Ms. Wanda Roche, Sec.

October 6, 1980

The Hon. Joseph Clarke
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

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Respectfully submitted

Mr. Gordon Hector, Pres. Ms. Wanda Roche, Sec.

October 6, 1980

The Hon. Ed. Broadbent
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

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