

the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada:

This submission is made on behalf of the Okanagan North Progressive Conservative Association and represents the consensus of opinion expressed at the annual meeting of the Association in Kelowna, B.C. held Monday, November 24, 1980.

1. THE ASSOCIATION AGREES ON PATRIATION OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT, WITH THE "VANCOUVER CONSENSUS" AS AN AMENDING FORMULA, BUT WITH NO OTHER AMENDMENTS.

The reason for this stand is our conviction that any amendment to the Act must be made by the Parliament of Canada and its partners in Confederation, the legislatures of the provinces, acting jointly on behalf of the people of Canada. The only acceptable exception would relate to the amending formula and that must be based on the "Vancouver Consensus" which represents a Canadian decision of near unanimity. This concession is made because it appears undesirable to return the Act as a 'dead document'. Any further amendment would be imposing on the British Parliament a task that they neither want nor should have.

2. THE ASSOCIATION DISAGREES THAT THE REFERENDUM PROCESS SHOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE OF THE DANGERS OF DISCRIMINATION THAT EXIST IN THE PROCESS.

Because of the vastness of Canada and the imbalances in population in its various regions any referendum is likely to be weighted to the advantage of the most populous sectors. Further, it bypasses the elected governments of the provinces, and denies the essence of Federalism which has been the basis of our system since Confederation.

B.D. St. George

BDS/rll

Pièce Jointe

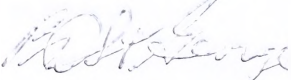
3. THE ASSOCIATION IS OPPOSED TO AN ENSHRINED CHARTER OF RIGHTS PRIOR TO PATRIATION.

The Association feels that the question of an enshrined Charter of Rights is a matter strictly for Canadian people and requires a greater length of time to be considered. It should be done by Canadians in Canada.

4. THE ASSOCIATION URGES THAT THE SITTING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE BE EXTENDED NOT LESS THAT SIX MONTHS AND THAT IT TRAVEL THROUGH-OUT THE NATION RECEIVING TESTIMONY.

Despite the extension to February 6th, 1981, the deadline amounts to closure of public right to be heard and there is still insufficient time to hear all who should be heard. Further, by travelling the Committee enhances public accessibility to the deliberations. It is recommended that in order to facilitate the process the Committee should form itself into three or more sub-committees in order to cover the nation more completely and more rapidly than if the whole committee undertook the process as a single body. Further, it is strongly recommended that the sub-committees should be structured in such a way that members would visit those parts of the country in which they do not reside and thus enlarge their understanding of feelings in regions not completely familiar to them.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



B.D. St. George
President

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