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Toronto and Montreal Committees to
Defend Quebec's Right to Self-Determination
c/o 1401 Carmen Drive
Mississauga, Ont. L5G 3Z2

November 18, 1980

Attention Richard Pregent

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25 NOV 1980
Committees and Private
Legislation Branch
Comités et Législation Privés

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

Dear Sirs:

Committees to defend Quebec's right to self-determination were formed across the country prior to the May referendum, starting with the Toronto Committee in the Fall of 1978. The committees have involved people with quite diverse political views and have focussed their efforts on a variety of popular education activities including declarations, pamphlets, (sample attached), and public forums, all with the intent of enhancing public understanding of Quebec's status as a nation and the essential right of the Quebecois to self-determination. The Toronto Committee's initial declaration and list of signatories is attached. It should be stressed that our committees take no position on the form in which Quebec's right to self-determination should be expressed.

Subsequent to the May referendum, committees in a number of cities have remained active in the debate over constitutional reform. For example, on October 7 the Toronto Committee sponsored a public forum at the St. Lawrence Centre (preliminary advertisement attached).

The Toronto and Montreal Committees to Defend Quebec's Right to Self-Determination would like to appear as witnesses and present a joint brief before the Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada. In contrast to much of the testimony to date, our primary emphasis would be on collective rights and liberties (especially those of the Quebecois but also those of the native peoples and other Canadians) and the ways in which the proposed new constitution ignores and in some respects denies these vital democratic rights.

We would greatly appreciate notification as soon as possible concerning an appearance date. Please contact me by telephone if possible (home: 416-274-6970; office: 416-923-6641, X 279).

Yours sincerely,

D. W. Livingstone
President
Toronto Committee to Defend Quebec's
Right to Self Determination.

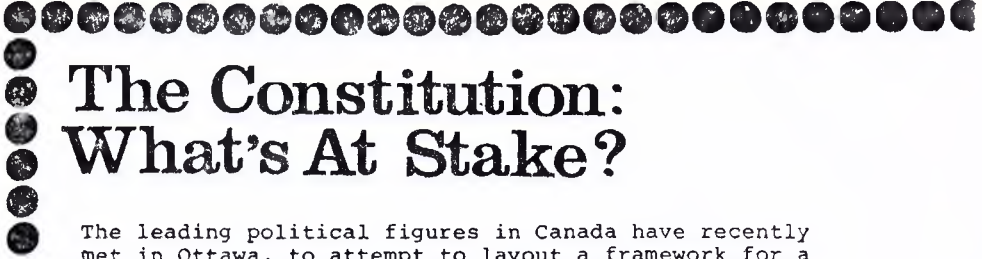
enclosures

FORUM

St. Lawrence Centre
27 Front Street East
Toronto, Ontario

Toronto
Arts
Productions

Free Admission



The Constitution: What's At Stake?

The leading political figures in Canada have recently met in Ottawa, to attempt to layout a framework for a new Canadian Constitution. This series of meetings appears to be a political tug of war between the regional desires of the provinces and the centralism of the Federal government, the wealthy and poorer provinces, Quebec and the other nine provinces. However, this is only part of the reality. There are numerous major groupings in Canada whose interests have been excluded from these talks as well as from most media coverage - for instance the Native People, the Labour movement, women, civil libertarians, and the Quebecois nation. This forum seeks to give clear expression to the concerns of some of these major groups and to permit a fuller understanding of the real issues that are at stake in the current constitutional debates.

PANELISTS

- Arnold Goodleaf Special assistant to the
President, National Indian Brotherhood
- Anne Legare Professor,
Universite du Quebec a Montreal
- Lloyd Ingram President, Vancouver local, CUPW
- Paul Copeland Lawyer, member of the Law Union

MODERATOR

- Walley Seccombe Lecturer, Trent University,
Peterborough, Ont.

Tuesday, October 7, 8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Forum, Toronto Arts Productions and
The Committee to Defend Quebec's Right to Self-Deter-
mination. For further information call 366-1656, ext.
41.

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