

Lougheed's intervention supported

*Tues.
March
13
Herald*

In a long bleak winter of shifting values, even one small ludicrous situation to laugh at, is welcome. Laughable indeed was the reaction of Calgary's school board to Peter Lougheed's decision to delay school closure so the matter could be reviewed from all sides by a new tri-party committee.

The board's bleating about loss of autonomy can only amuse the

electors. Firstly, the board had no political autonomy to lose. If they had read the Act governing them, they would have found the province always had the final say.

Secondly, the only vital autonomy in a democracy lies with the electors — their majority wishes must be heard and implemented.

This was a prime case where the electors' will was loud and clear

and it was not listened to. The electors trooped in droves to meetings where they were told they would have only a few minutes to state their case, and if they got to speak, rarely was a school board member present to listen to them. Electors wrote letters to newspapers and the board; and they collected thousands of notarized signatures on petitions. The board's reply to all this was to mail out a form letter reaffirming its own position and the board did this at the protesting taxpayers' expense.

I personally did not hear or read of one elector who was in favor of closing the schools and selling them or demolishing them. The desire of the majority of electors was clear.

It was not, political expediency for the premier to implement the will of the electorate. This goes to the heart of our democracy.

I am thankful Peter Lougheed did listen to the electors. The day we lose that, look out.

RUTH GORMAN,

Calgary.

Great people

We as Albertans owe a debt of gratitude to people who speak out in this time of turmoil during our East/West problems.

Many years, hence, the supreme efforts on the part of people such as Carl Nickle, Ruth Gorman, and also Premier Peter Lougheed, will go down in history as great people.

All through history, those who stood up for what they believe to be right, have laid the way for a better society.

Z. CATER,

Calgary.

LETTER OF THE DAY

DERIK HODGSON'S article on the constitution makes me sick. We have had our own flag in Canada for years, first the red one with the ensign in the corner — Canadians by the thousands died under that flag — and secondly, Mr. Pearson's white one with a red maple leaf. We have always had an anthem — first, *The Maple Leaf Forever* and then *O Canada* and, thank goodness, we have always sung *God Save The Queen* (or king).

We already had our own amendable constitution; a fine and functioning one, as the Supreme Court pointed out. This new one was never our constitution: It was the politi-

cians'. What we've got isn't even a constitution. It's not "by the people and for the people." Not a single Canadian person has been allowed to vote on it, including you, Mr. Hodgson.

For you to bleat out such remarks as, "At last, our own anthem, our own flag, our own constitution," is false on every count.

Fortunately, the public is not as stupid as the politicians and the media seem to think we are. We know that all we got was a piece of paper designed by politicians, passed over by politicians, a piece of paper that transferred most of the citizens'

past cherished rights into the complete control of those same politicians.

We got this mess, not because the people are so dumb but because the politicians were so secretive and unscrupulous. It is no credit to the media to join the politicians in the actions, by further deceiving us and telling us how lucky we are to get, at last, our own anthem, our own flag, our own constitution, when all that happened is we have been robbed of our past good ones.

Ruth Gorman

(You've been reading our editorials.)

Federal take-over of resource funds is dep

This is no East-West confrontation Canada has been plunged into, nor is it a political difference. It is a complete take-over for all time, of the province's largest source of revenue — resource funds.

By the proposed change in our constitutional law, Ottawa will centralize most funds and all power under its control, leaving us the unpleasant task of having to finance all schooling, roads, welfare, development, within your borders, without adequate funds, unless the federal government — Ottawa — decides to give part of them back.

By placing these powers into a constitutional law that we the electors have never seen or voted on, and which for all practical purposes is unalterable, they have closed the door on provincial growth and prosperity for all time.

Ottawa will use Alberta funds to increase the scope of the mandarins, produce more uneconomical Crown corporations that refuse to give efficient service, and under the sharing plan use the funds to win political votes. Gradually each province's funds will be redirected to Ottawa.

Canada is too vast and diversified a country to be governed by an all-powerful centralized government. At this time in history, small countries like Great Britain have found it necessary to return funding and governing to Wales and Scotland, in order to have any measure of successful government. For Canada to now take the backward step of centralizing its government instead of increasing the provincial powers, will be a disaster for all Canadians and for all provincial governments. Not only will it result in a loss of services, accompanied by higher taxes, but it will result in violent discontent.

This year, by the federal budget, the fund crunch has been put on Alberta and B. C. but next year it will be any province's turn. Then they will realize how shocking it is that once these constitutional laws have been passed they are extremely difficult if not impossible to change. In a week in Alberta we are seeing the results. There is a withdrawal of many large companies from Alberta, and cancellation of contracts. The people leaving are not going to other provinces —

they are leaving Canada because they realize the impact of the new double taxes that will result when Ottawa has taken away the province's resource funds.

While our now legally owned provincial resource funds languish in Ottawa, the provinces will have to scramble to meet the needs of schools, health welfare, etc. of their province which can only be done by extra taxation.

In past history, constitutions only emerge after either a war of conquest, or a revolution. Canada is getting their new one by the political decision of a group of politicians who have never consulted their electorate. Alberta's funds have been taken by the federal budget; to spend as it likes, if it is confirmed by a constitution.

We who love our country and want to stay in it, are following Loughheed's example of passive resistance. There will be at first, only a small reduction of oil export by Alberta. Many Albertans now fly Canadian flags at half-mast; have sold their Cana-

dian government bonds; are boycotting Crown corporations; writing letters of protest to England, and joining the many groups forming to prepare for separation that may come after Trudeau's threat to rob us of our Constitutional Rights by December. Most of us realize that this unseemly and undemocratic haste to plunder provincial funds without our vote, is due to mismanagement to the point where Ottawa is desperate for provincial funds.

It is the central government at Ottawa which is now choosing to enlarge its powers, not the people of Canada. I am certain most Canadians have little faith in an all-powerful centralized Ottawa.

My ancestors came here when it was the Northwest Territories, and enjoyed a life of freedom. I envision the possibility of my children living in an area — Canada West: a federation of four independent, developing provinces and two territories, where property rights, the right to

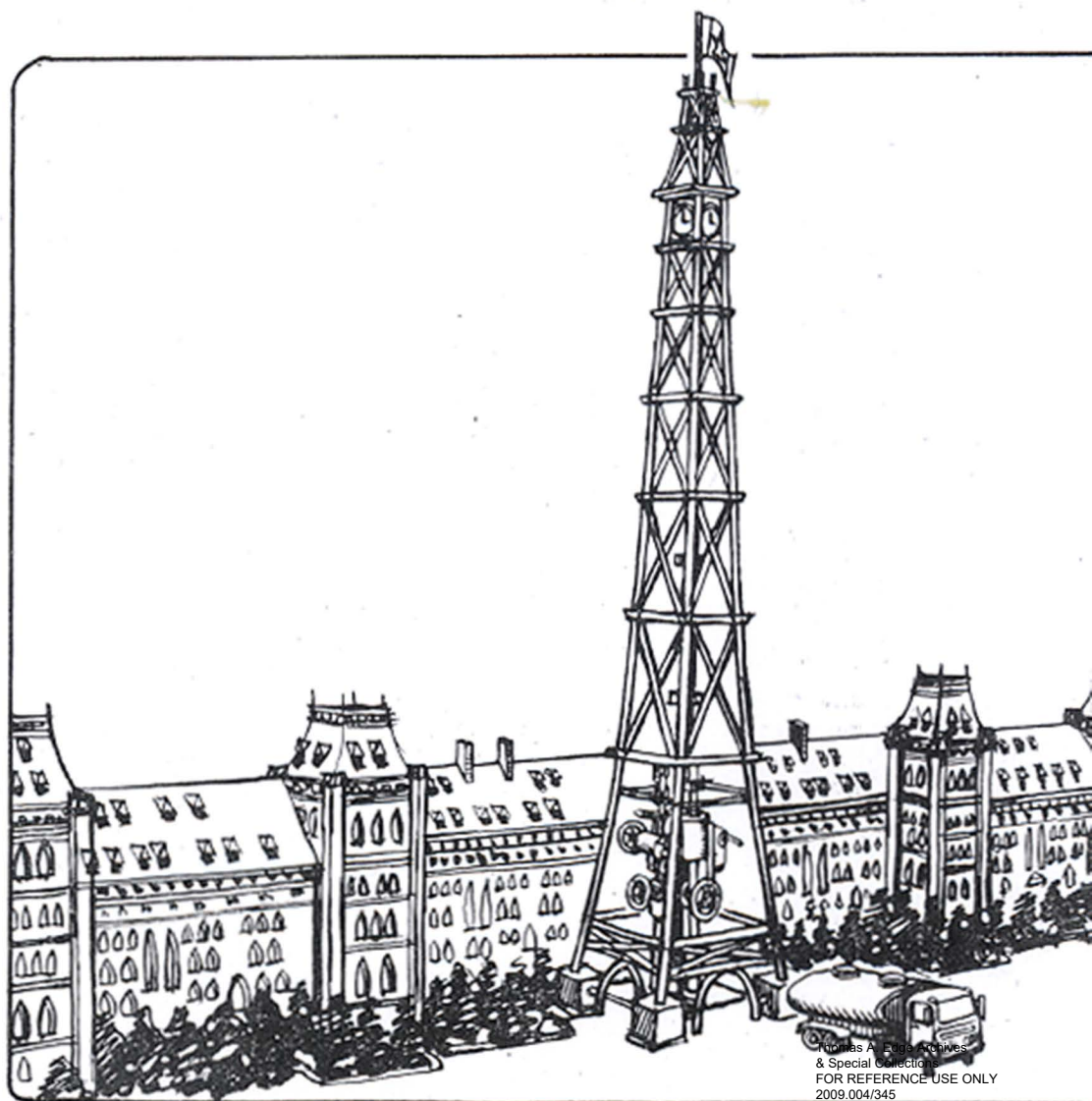
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grow and develop in freedom will as always, be guaranteed by our courts; an area federated only so we may act in strength and unity.

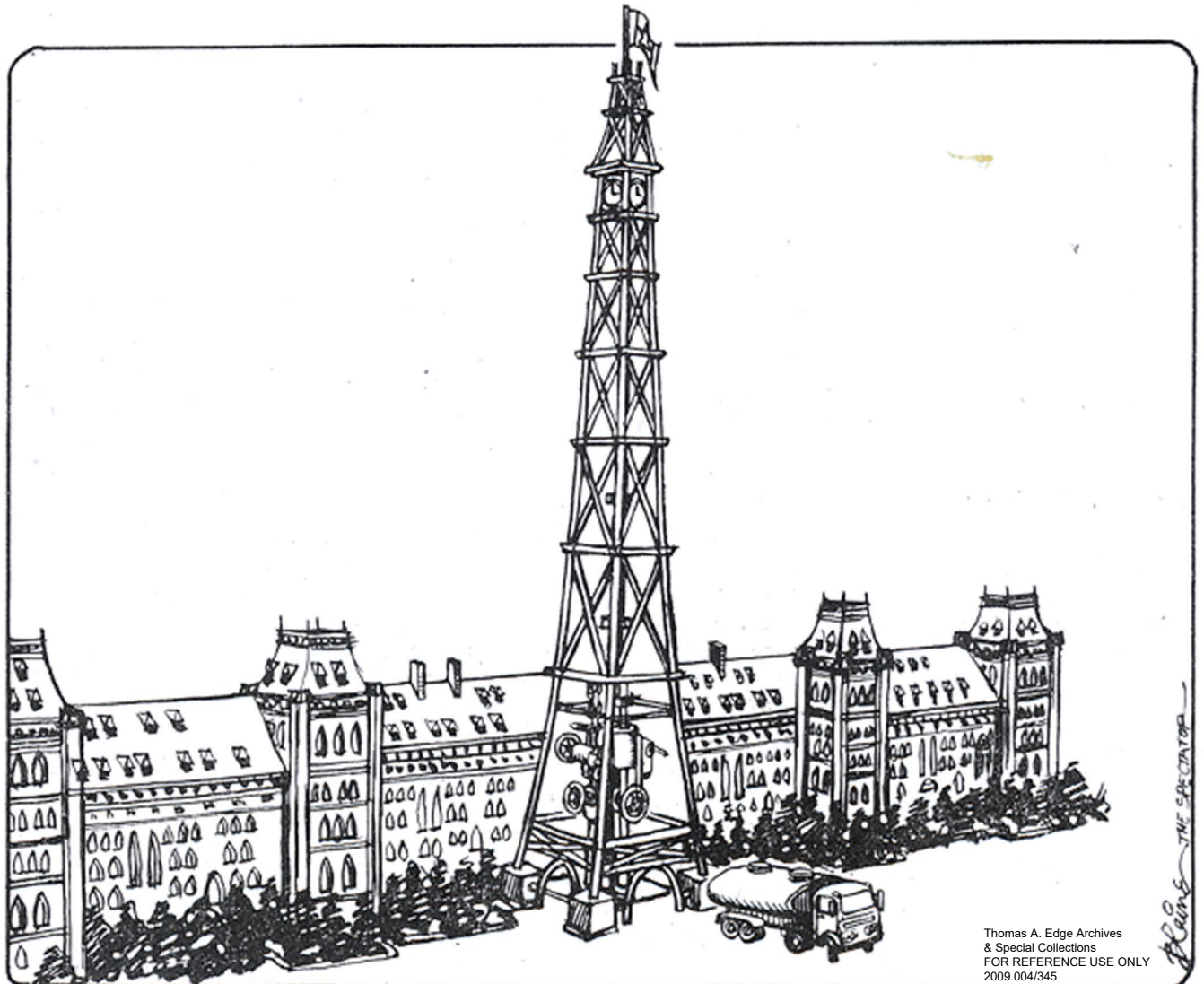
I don't want a centralized Canada where politicians or mandarins by tricks, using their new power of centralized funds, aided by new constitutionally given discretionary powers, can manipulate us only for the political purpose of staying in power by sections 31 to 41 of the proposed constitution.

In our time, we've seen how West Germany survived, prospered, and retained their nationality and their political rights, by simply refusing to accept political domination. We can too if forced to and right now the pressure is fierce. Loss of billions in revenue and thousands of jobs.

We must now delay the passing of the new Constitution in any way we can. Every person in Canada must be given a right to vote and make a free choice.

RUTH GORMAN,

Calgary.



You'll lose rights!

By RUTH GORMAN
Special to The Sun

If the new constitution becomes law, you as an individual will have lost the most important rights you have. They are the rights which distinguish a democracy from a dictatorship.

The first right is the individual's guarantee of the enjoyment of his property without fear of confiscation by the government. The second is the individual's right to have access to courts that are independent of government interference and where he can go to get his rights protected from the government. The third great right is the individual's freedom from being imprisoned by the government for mere political opposition.

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Most countries lose these rights when tanks rumble across their borders — you are losing yours by a few pages of print. The actual constitution is only 27 pages long. It's written in both English and French so the English version is only 13½ unlucky pages long. On these few pages are outlined the laws that will be binding on your future and that will deprive you of rights you now have.

An individual's right to property was first asserted in Magna Carta and has been steadily reaffirmed in Canada's courts and statute law up to now. It was reconfirmed in Diefenbaker's Canadian Charter of Rights and in the United Nations Charter of Human Rights. The appropriate place for it in Trudeau's constitution would have been in Section 4(2) on Page 14. There they copied Diefenbaker's charter word for word until they got to property rights, and they just did not put them in. Nor are they anywhere else in the constitution.

You may think that past laws will still guarantee your property rights. That's wrong. Built into this constitution is a section which makes any law "inconsistent" with this Charter "inoperative and of no effect." See Section 25, Page 24. Inconsistent is an awkward and unusual word to use, but look it up: It means contradictory or incompatible. To have a right and to not have a right is legally inconsistent. So your rights under past laws that are not included in this constitution are overridden.

But to merely lose a right to property does not necessarily mean that property can then just be taken from you, unless another person or the government has been specifically given the right to take what you own. Again hidden away in this constitution the central government has given itself that right. Section 31(a) and (b) gives it the right to do what it pleases under the so-called "equalization" provision.

Equalization has until now been a manner by which the provinces of Canada shared revenue to ensure reasonable public services to all Canadians at approximately equal tax levels. It is based on the provinces' agreement and on actual provable facts and figures. Now the right is to be given

exclusively to the federal government, which can redistribute provincial revenue without the consent of provincial legislatures. The government does not have to prove the necessity of doing what it does with statistics or facts. Ottawa can take from one province (or even person) and give to another, including itself, if it believes such action will promote "equal opportunities" or further economic development that reduces "disparity of opportunities." Opportunities are not a factual, provable reality. They are just guesses about the future. The new constitution ought to read that property can be "equalized" at Ottawa's will but that would have alerted an unsuspecting public.

But you may well say that couldn't happen in Canada. Elected members of Parliament would never take rights or property from one Canadian or one province and give it to another. Such thinking is dangerously naive. Look at the last election, the 18¢ election as it is called. Trudeau bought Ontario's vote by promising the voters there cheap oil at Alberta's expense.

In the same election, Trudeau promised Quebecers Canada-wide bilingualism in all the federal civil service and Crown corporations such as CNR, Air Canada, and so on. Albertans will be forced to pay the cost of these services that they don't even use. And it is estimated that in Alberta alone 40,000 people could lose their jobs if the provisions of the new constitution laid out in Section 16 (1 & 2), Page 20 are enforced. Premier William Davis of Ontario, a Conservative, warned that his province's Liberals would be upset if those laws affected their people, so Ontario has been given an exemption from the bilingualism requirement. Claude Ryan, Quebec's Liberal leader, announced that Quebecers would support Ontario's exemption provided that they were ensured jobs in the rest of Canada. The West is given no exemptions. The central government does not need its support as long as Ontario and Quebec are happy.

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Even now, Westerners are an ineffective minority, lacking the votes to protect their interests. Imagine what will happen to the property of yourselves, your co-ops and companies and, of course, your provinces once this constitution is in place and the guarantee of property rights is gone. You will face a terrible situation.

Not only property rights are omitted from the constitution. By omission you will also lose the ancient democratic right of trial before courts independent of government interference. Since the courts' structure is not described at all, again under Section 25 that power of control goes to the central government. Eventually your courts could degenerate into tools enforcing the government's will on you, as they do now in Russia and China. Their power to protect the individual will be gone.

Dr. Ruth Gorman is a Calgary resident.

(To be continued Sunday.)

Ottawa involved in con game to hide deficit

Trudeau has said he wishes to hear what Canadians think of his proposed new constitution for Canada. What sophistry. During the last election when he was repeatedly questioned re his federalist plans, he refused to answer, knowing full well if he did he would never get re-elected.

Since that election he has met continuously with Canada's provincial premiers who spoke for Canadian voters and the majority of them over and over again rejected his proposals. The businessmen of Canada, who are also electors have rejected his proposals as factually evident by the dollar's decline and the drop in the stock market. Trudeau has been told and he won't listen. Instead by closure he stopped Parliament's debate.

The truth of the matter is Trudeau has never been concerned with human rights or constitutional reform. During his entire period in office we have had no reforms in the field of human rights. Diefenbaker had already given us a national Bill of Human Rights before Trudeau even arrived on the scene; and the very provinces he is pretending to bring rights to have already passed their own charter of human rights.

Among world governments Canada's human rights have always been admired and world government's Canada's human rights have always been admired and envied. Possibly in Canada the rights of women and Indians need reform but Trudeau has done nothing for either. In all his

years in office the only human rights legislation he has passed was to help homosexuals, and it is he who used the only shocking and offending law Canada has in the field of human rights — The War Measures Act, one as severe as that of any fascist or communist dictatorship.

So why now the sudden concern for constitutional reform? It is clearly only because under his leadership he has led this country to the verge of bankruptcy, and the only way he can continue his mad spending spree is to find a

quick source of temporary cash. He can't tax more from us and stay in power so he has to steal it and the only way he can do that legally is to change first the budget and then legally enforce that with a new constitution.

Trudeau has led Canada without making any kind of effort at all to curb the high cost of government's food prices, inflation or unemployment to where our debt will be nearly \$100 billion a year. On each of our taxpayer dollars you presently pay 20 cents not for services you have received or will, but to pay interest on the debts he has accumulated.

To conceal this he now hopes to, under the pretense of constitutional reform, to take money from provincial taxpayers to pay federal taxpayers and he hopes we will all forget they are the same person. It's the oldest con game in the world. But he is doing all this to conceal the terrible deficit he has built up and so he will be allowed to stay in power.

He is not doing this to help Canada. When Marc Lalonde was asked in Calgary on TV where the government would get the money to buy the multi national oil company Petro-Canada needs, he calmly said we can borrow it from other countries.

We all know the countries that have money to loan, oil-rich Arab and Russian states and the industrially rich-Japan and Germany — that's who is to have our energy — our Canada. In contrast the Alberta government has given up billions of dollars so revenue stays in Canada.

To financially ruin the country is serious enough, but to attempt to also rob us of a constitution acceptable to the majority, makes it all impossible. It has to be met by firm resistance and outright refusal.

It is not democratic to allow any province to govern another beyond its borders or take its legal revenue any more than it was for the British beyond their borders to tax the American's tea and it is as unacceptable.

There seems no way within a democracy he can be stopped before the next election except if his own Liberal party rises up and stops his disastrous race towards their own ultimate ruin and destruction.

We can as individuals legally boycott him, and adopt a policy of passive resistance. Sell, as I have done all government bonds and refuse to buy more, refuse to patronize any crown corporations like Air Canada, the CNR now renamed Via Rail or refuse to buy goods advertised on CBC.

Don't buy Petro-Canada shares and don't patronize the former Philips service stations that the government now owns.

It is Alberta and B. C. now who must pay the piper. Next year it will be Ontario and Quebec. All provinces better look out — if you make a cent he has designed an easy way to take it from you. It will always pay his debts — ~~that's the provinces~~ neither want to pay nor benefit from.

RUTH GORMAN, Calgary.



Ruth Gorman

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Trudeau wants new powers

By RUTH GORMAN
Special to The Sun

The following is the second of a two-part series by Calgary resident Dr. Ruth Gorman on the effect of Prime Minister Trudeau's proposed constitutional amendments on human rights. In the first section, published Friday, Dr. Gorman warned that Canadians would lose important rights — including the right to enjoy his or her property — if the proposed constitution is approved.

The vital right to freedom from political imprisonment is not gone by omission but is incorporated directly in the constitution, Section 4(2) on Page 14. The War Measures Act is made part of the constitution. Under that authority, if the government wishes, you can be sent to prison for mere political agitation. The government doesn't even have to wait until you make an actual treasonable move. If it even "apprehends" insurrection, it can act. Apprehension is defined in dictionaries as a state of mind, a thought or feeling as opposed to a reality. Apprehension could be created by placard-carriers, strongly-voiced political opinions or even strikes.

If you do become a political prisoner, don't hope for a quick trial. *Habeas corpus*, the ancient guarantee of a quick trial, is gone and replaced by a new law, Section II (b), Page 18. The government may now decide what is a "reasonable" time to bring you to trial. Nor can you count on good treatment in jail. Section 12, Page 18, forbids "cruel and unusual treatment" but it is the government which defines those vague terms. A daily beating over the head is not considered too cruel and is certainly not unusual in many countries.

Even if the voters become upset over government actions, such as arbitrary imprisonment on political grounds, they may not be able to help you. Section 4 (2) allows the government to put off elections indefinitely if two-thirds of Parliament agree with its "apprehension" that there could be insurrection.

The legislation protecting women, Indians and other minorities is weakened, not strengthened, by this constitution. In particular, Section 15 (2) opens the possibility of discrimination against them. This provision ends the principle of equality before the law and allows discrimination if the government decides a group is "disadvantaged." An all-male Parliament might decide that males are disadvantaged. It alone decides and the vagueness of the word allows it to do what it wishes.

For 115 years we've enjoyed good democratic government and rights. Why should we part with this system now?

Trudeau is forcing his wishes on us, trying to make the British Parliament incorporate his ideas into a radical amendment of the BNA Act. If the British will not co-operate, you can expect a referendum in Canada. We've been told it's ready to print. Trudeau has warned that "you will be forced to choose."

The loss of the vital rights of democracy will be a disaster for all Canadians. But Western Canadians will suffer much worse. The threat of becoming Central Canada's colony is causing protest meetings across the West already, and forcing people to think about the alternative of independence.

Read it for yourself. Talk to your lawyer. Think about it. Get your friends involved. Write the politicians. Above all, care!

Expert lauds independent

It is more than two years since I became seriously concerned over how Mr. Trudeau was (through imposing a constitution on us) trying to legalize a new form of government on Canadians, one that seriously reduced our freedoms and our economic chances. I had hoped that Alberta's able premier, Peter Lougheed, would stand up and fight for Albertans. Instead he has felt it is wiser to go along with Trudeau and so accepted the constitution, when legally the Supreme Court had given him a way out. He also agreed to energy policies that are proving disastrous for Western Canada.

It is essential before all our freedoms are eroded away, that we present to the politicians that govern us (be they Trudeau or provincially, Peter Lougheed) that we the electors will not be marched around. The leadership of the WCC has lately been seriously split and its direction unclear.

For this reason I would like to thank

a long time High River resident, Don Tanner, for being willing to stand up in these trying times to be counted. He is an able representative who knows clearly that we must at this time put into action the direction Western Canada must take.

Ruth Gorman
Ward H5, Calgary General Hospital
Calgary

Editor's Note: Dr. Gorman is well-known throughout Alberta as one of Canada's foremost authorities on Constitutional law. She was awarded the "Order of Canada" for her efforts in drafting the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights. Mrs. Gorman, for over a year, spoke on W.C.C.'s behalf and aided in Gordon Kesler's Olds-Didsbury election. Mrs. Gorman would welcome letters and visits from close friends, at Calgary General Hospital, where she has been bed-ridden for several weeks.

Letters

Editor: Bill Musselwhite 235-7514

Politicians eyeing elections

I will vote No. That only means I am saying no to the politicians. I am saying to the politicians, "you do not have the right, between elections, to further politically manipulate me or my beloved country."

Fortunately, we still have the democratic way of elections at the polls, where it will be clear what choices we do have and what they, the politicians, are promising. At that time, I will, with my democratic vote, clearly tell them what I want for this country. I also object to being manoeuvred at my own great expense.

I found the so-called unanimity clause most shocking. In reality it gives each province the right to a veto which brings to a stop any changes to any

federal institution. This is in effect a veto by any one province in Canada on any changes if, in the future, it doesn't happen to like a proposed change in government, the civil service, Indian affairs or laws. This can lead to possible chaos and political dictatorship by one province.

This beautiful Canada has lasted for a long time and will continue.

I will vote No for now. Only the politicians are in a hurry for an answer. They only have their eyes on their election timetables.

There must be a delay so don't be afraid to vote No but do vote.

RUTH GORMAN,
Calgary.