

Dear Sir;

Only one year ago a defeated Trudeau managed to be returned to power in Ottawa. Previously, the nation as a whole had rejected him because of his government's total disregard for the welfare of the country and its people. Its reckless lack of sound economic planning had created a situation in which each Canadian taxpayer was paying interest on a national debt ten times larger per capita than the national debt in the United States. Deficit budgeting had gone wild. Ottawa's own Auditor-General warned the public that federal spending was out of control.

Canadians were tired of this unnecessary burden. Tax-weary Ontario, along with the West, brought Joe Clark to power. By the 1980 election, Trudeau knew that he had to win Ontario to put the Liberals back in government, though he had no need of Western seats. He succeeded.

He retained Quebec by publicly promising its people the fulfillment of their long-held historic dream of French influence across Canada. In his major Quebec election speech, he pledged, "There will be bilingualism from sea to sea." And his election strategy also included the promise of cheap oil and gas to Ontario at Alberta's expense. It's been called the eighteen cents a gallon election for that reason. Though the Liberals lost all but two seats west of the Lakehead, these promises won sufficient support in central Canada to put the Liberals back in the driver's seat, where they intend to stay.

Trudeau could not enforce his resources and language policy through Parliament. The bitter debates would tear Canada apart. Instead he conceived a way of concealing his purposes while still putting them into law.

Patriotism has been called the last refuge of a scoundrel. Playing on Canadians' patriotism, Trudeau announced that we were in desperate need of a constitution. This is not true. Canada has survived and prospered under the BNA Act for 114 years. Our rights are guaranteed by the centuries old common law system, and by Diefenbaker's amendable Canadian Charter of Rights, as well as provincial legislation. Canadians do not need a new constitution.... but Trudeau does. Through a new constitution he can seize the



power to take over Canadian language and resource rights completely.

Trudeau moved in secrecy initially, not raising the constitution issue during the election; so we were denied the right to vote on it. Now, he is forcing his constitution through the Canadian and British Parliaments, limiting debate, invoking closure, and threatening to break up the Commonwealth.

This so-called constitution, unapproved by the people, is in truth only a political manifesto. Concealed in it are the political ambitions of Ontario and Quebec - the very pledges that got Trudeau re-elected. On the language issue, Section 16 states "English and French are the official languages of Canada." This provision is backed up by others enforcing bilingualism within the federal civil service and Crown Corporations. Few Westerners are bilingual. Many, many Westerners' jobs are threatened, in the army, in the CNR, in Air Canada, in the postal service, in the CBC, and many other federal employment sectors. By law all people in these jobs may be designated as bilingual, a requirement that can be enforced selectively by Ottawa where and when it pleases.

Trudeau will give Ontario its cheap oil, (and wheat, and coal, and whatever else is desirable in future) through taking away property rights. This applies to all property rights, whether individual, corporate, or provincial. To accomplish this, all Trudeau's constitution needs to do is fail to mention property rights altogether. Thus, it robs us of all our past guaranteed property rights.

What is mentioned, in Part Three, is Ottawa's "equalization rights". These empower Ottawa to "promote equal opportunities for the well-being of Canadians" and to "further development that reduces disparity in opportunities". Under these vague terms Ottawa can, at its discretion, redistribute the West's resources. You can be sure this will be done, over and over, whenever Ottawa needs cash to finance its vast debts and inefficient government.

It will be done whenever the federal government faces an election, being used to buy those essential votes in Ontario and Quebec. Trudeau and his successors will not disturb the individual and provincial property rights of Ontarians and Quebecers. Respectively they hold 95 and 70 seats in the House of Commons.

In addition, these two provinces can veto future constitutional amendments.



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The four Western provinces altogether control only 80 seats and cannot protect themselves, either by vote or amendment. The lack of property guarantees in Trudeau's constitution does not endanger Ontarioans (whose Conservative Premier backs him), but it leaves the West's resources wide open for Ottawa's looting. The West will be robbed continually and forever, whenever loot is needed to pay Ottawa's debts or to buy eastern votes. The West is facing legalized poverty.

If this constitution goes in, the financial progress in the West is finished. Westerners' personal property security is also endangered. The right to hold land, to keep your house, to build financially for the future is jeopardized by the failure to guarantee property.

The West must defeat this constitution. Otherwise, our regions' premiers and provincial governments will lose their power to protect us. We do not have enough votes to amend the constitution. We will be subject to systematic robbery and we will be helpless, both legally and politically.

The only hope to defeat Trudeau at this stage is to back the fight of the provincial premiers against the constitution. They are fighting for us, suing in the courts, and protesting in England. They are our last legal, democratic hope.

Western Canadians are asleep, lulled by the temporary prosperity. We must wake up! Do not believe my warning alone. That little fellow, Lalonde, has been unable to resist boasting. He recently said, "Parliament will be able to put a stop to Alberta's oil production cutbacks as soon as the government's package of constitutional reform is enacted." He spelled out our future with this addition, "No lengthy lawsuit will be needed once the British parliament has enacted the constitution." This foolish man revealed the plan prematurely. LISTEN TO HIM!

The balance of power that has kept Canada united is being deliberately destroyed by Trudeau in an attempt to create a unitary, centrally controlled state. In the process, he is prepared to obliterate the liberties and rights that are our most precious heritage. The greed for wealth and power that he and his allies represent is destroying our democracy and economy. We in the West must safeguard the Canadian democratic laws that we inherited. We must protect the right of each individual to build his dream and keep it safe. To do this

we must protect the power of our provincial governments to represent our regional interests. The West must keep property rights and individual liberties alive and well, even if Ottawa won't.

Each day the ideal of preserving this way of life within Canada becomes more difficult. Democratic, financially sound, government must be preserved at all costs, even if necessary, in an independent West. Our ancestors pioneered our land and defended it in two world wars to safeguard this priceless heritage. We must not lose such a precious gift in exchange for a constitution that's only a manifesto of central Canada's greed.

Support your premiers. Only they will speak for the West in the constitutional battle that will come.

*Ruth Gorman*