

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# No easy answer to unity, but we must try: MP

To the editor of The Herald:  
After one year of living with our first Separatist Government, Canadians are feeling more confident about dealing with it, keeping our country together, and in fact making Canada better than ever.  
As the Prime Minister indicated in his year-end interview, we have watched patiently as the shock of the Quebec Election (Nov. 15, 1976) wore off, and the honeymoon ended for the Parti Quebecois. It is becoming immersed in troubles of its own as Canada and the other Quebec parties, federalist all, grow stronger.  
We look forward to the PQ's defeat at the next election,

though we know that won't solve all our problems. In the meantime, Canadians want to know what we are doing.  
As Prof. Anthony Westell stated December 31, 1977, in the Toronto Star, "In 1978 we should look upon the unity crisis not as a demoralizing threat, but as a challenge to invent and build a new sort of national state."  
This is being done in many ways, some well publicized, some not.  
First, the Government of Canada has created four new agencies to organize its unity efforts.  
1) The Task Force on National Unity, headed by Jean-Luc Pepin and John Roberts,

to discuss national unity directly with the public.  
2) The Federal-Provincial Relations Bureau on National Unity, headed by Paul Teller, to keep the government informed.  
3) The Office of Special Adviser on Constitutional Reform, Donald Thorson, former deputy-minister of Justice, to advise the Prime Minister.  
4) The Canadian Unity Information Office, headed by Pierre Lefebvre, responsible for public dissemination of material to aid unity, e.g. language education opportunities.  
The staffs and budgets will be relatively small, 100 new positions and \$5 million.  
The federal and provincial

governments are also working together on constitutional reform, minority rights and language opportunities, which they all want.  
The emphasis on official language instruction has been shifted to elementary schools. In fact all efforts are being met to improve the conditions of Confederation, to increase economic and other opportunities in all regions of Canada, through both the public and private sector. Each and every action in Canada is a statement on unity.  
In addition, the federal government will spend an extra \$12.6 million on a series of cultural projects to tell Canadians more about their own country by films, exhibits, pro-

jects and travelling exhibits, through four agencies, the National Film Board, The Canada Council, The National Museums of Canada and The National Arts Centre.  
Voluntary unity groups are being encouraged and supported. With over 200,000 members in Quebec and elsewhere, they are now larger than the PQ.  
The media are being encouraged to openly support the unity movement, especially the CBC.  
The Queen too has given her valuable support to unity, in both official languages.  
As Jack McArthur of the Toronto Star stated, the sup-

port of the Western Provinces has a particularly convincing ring. It is the most unselfish for it has less to lose and more to gain from separation.  
The role of our ethnic groups is not to be underestimated or undervalued, for they most of all understand language and other minority problems.  
A very special unity group is the Quebec Union of Municipalities as Quebec's mayors and municipal officials demonstrated when they invited a federal minister to their annual convention and booted a Quebec minister.  
The Eskimos and other native peoples of Quebec have also made a strong stand for national unity.  
Montreal schools have indicated they intend to challenge

Quebec's new language law, possibly with the support of the federal government.  
The polls show increasing support for national unity (70 per cent) both in Quebec and other provinces, and decreasing support for separation.  
Ottawa and the other provinces have clearly rejected Premier Levesque's ploys of economic association with separation, and separate language deals. So have business and the U.S.A. rejected Separatist appeals.  
On the other hand, an increasing majority of Canadians want a fairer deal for all parts of Canada, and want their children educated in both languages. What they don't want is civil war.  
A new Canadian constitution

could help a great deal. Then "repatriating" the British North American Act will be less significant.  
Basically, I believe, Canada's great strength lies in the combined potential of all our differences, regional, linguistic, ethnic, religious. Essentially that is what Canada is and always will be. The richness and tolerance that accompanies it. Without that, it is just another part of North America.  
Even with our differences we have more in common with each other than we have with other peoples, even our American friends. We are Canadians.  
Dr. Frank A. Philbrook  
Member of Parliament  
Halton

We don't want to be either abused or ignored by each other. In the end, it will be a matter of how much we like and take an interest in each other, all across Canada.  
Recently in Oakville, Jean Chretien was asked, "But what can we do as ordinary citizens to keep Canada united?"  
"There is no easy answer to that," he said. "Just make friends with each other as individuals and through all the organizations to which you belong. No Separatist government can take that away."

# Time to shed gloom, doom, be optimistic

Halton MP Frank Philbrook says it's "time to shed the gloom and doom" and become optimistic about the future.  
He says in a new year message to Halton residents that many reports on the economy and national unity are optimistic.  
"They are too wise to be fooled by critics with vested interests in being pessimistic," Dr. Philbrook says.  
In a world of slow economic growth, Canada is predicted to continue a steady pace and become one of the best economies in the world, he says.

He also sees Canadians being the "best-fed, best-housed and best-cared-for people in the world."  
Canadian cultural pursuits are becoming recognized in both official languages and "national unity is becoming stronger than ever as loyal Canadians organize to create a better Canada and the separatists run into more and more troubles of their own."  
The voice of the people, including, he adds, that of the backbench member of parliament,

is being heard in Ottawa.  
Dr. Philbrook reports:  
— a 1977 trade surplus of \$2.5 billion reversing a deficit in 1976 and outclassing the United States which suffered a loss of \$25 million. He sees more pressure on Japan to share its wealth and provide more world trade.  
— the Toronto Stock Exchange outperformed U.S. exchanges with 12 of 15 indices reporting advances. Led by gas and oil on a broad-based gain, only mining and industrial products showed a decline. Dr. Philbrook expects a bright and strong 1978.  
— while the Canadian dollar dropped to 91.42 cents American, the U.S. dollar continues to drop. The result of the Canadian dollar drop sets it at a "more realistic competitive level," he says.  
— he sees labor costs more in line and notes average wage settlements at eight per cent or less compared to 20 per cent two years ago when controls were instituted. Prices are more competitive and production including the industrial sector is up 2.6 per cent.  
— profits are improving for many businesses while the lost time due to strikes is down by about two-thirds, he says.  
— there should be a greater opportunity for investment during 1978 because of all these factors mentioned above, and

by strong government incentives.  
"Controls have just about done their job, so (they) will start to come off in April. Organized labor predicts wage settlements will remain reasonable. Both high prices and wages will be watched closely but co-operation on restraint will be important."  
— the private sector is very important in job creation. Employment and new job creation continue at record levels and economists predict an excess of jobs in a few years.  
Sincerely Edna Coates  
(Fiddler)

## Xi Delta Beta meet awards prizes in draw

Marilyn Pickett was hostess to Xi Delta Beta's November 29th meeting. Betty Naylor won the pass to Georgetown Little Theatre's Christmas production and the travelling basket was won by Lorrie Ryan.  
Eileen Quackenbush presented tokens of appreciation to those members who had assisted her in her campaign to raise money for the Hospital for Sick Children's Christmas fund.  
Following the business meeting, Eileen Quackenbush presented her program on personality Will Rogers, outlining the accomplishments of his career and emphasizing how his homespun humour enriched the many and varied facets of his career. Eileen read examples of Roger's humor to the amusement of the members. She then went on to examine the humour of today's comedians and gave a quiz on that subject, followed by a group discussion.  
On the evening of December 6th, members met at the North Halton Golf and Country Club dining room for their annual Christmas dinner. Once again it was a pleasure to greet members on leave who had come out for the occasion.

After the dinner, Secret Sister Christmas gifts were exchanged as were season's greetings.  
At the Sorority's City Council meeting on December 12th the draw for "baby Beta" was held. The lucky winner was Mrs. B. Neild of Mountainview Road, Georgetown. The doll and her wardrobe will go to Mrs. Neild's seven-year-old daughter as a Christmas gift. Congratulations to Mrs. Neild and our appreciation to all who supported the raffle. The proceeds will be going towards worthy causes in our community.

## Ashgrove social notes

By Mrs. JOHN BELLRODDY  
Herald correspondent  
Well, another year has become history. Another chapter has been written in our life's book, and now we are facing a new year, '78, twenty four hours days. Let this year see us further down the way, that winds through darkness to a sun-crowned height, where gleams a shining city. O be bold, and make this New Year better than the old.  
Some of our folks have birthdays in this first month of 1978. We especially want to mention Mrs. J.M. Wickson on the 19th to you all we say Happy Birthday. Carnation is your flower, and garnet is your stone, may this January be the brightest you have ever known.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Zoppa and two sons Christopher and Darrin flew from Edmonton Dec. 15 for a ten day visit with their parents Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Blackett.  
Our young folks came home to visit parents over the Christmas holidays. Miss Karen Wickson and Jutta Treviranus from University of Toronto. Lois McNabb from University of Guelph, Grace Bird who is a Home Economist in Huron County was home for a week.  
We extend sympathy to the relatives of Russell Hepburn who passed away the last day of December.

**Saving your plant**  
By now, your Christmas poinsettia will be past its prime. You will have to decide whether to keep it or throw it out.  
While many will dispose of the plant, there are a few home gardeners who will enjoy the challenge of trying to save it.  
Burke McNeill, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food extension horticulturist, says that with the proper attention, home gardeners can obtain a glorious display of color next year.  
After flowering, the plant needs rest in a cool location. The soil should be allowed to dry out and should be kept this way until April.  
When spring arrives, home gardeners can begin giving the plant light and water. By June, the poinsettia will be ready to be planted in a shady spot in the garden.  
Mr. McNeill says plants should be returned to the house before the first frost.

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**Reader agrees with letter**  
To the editor of The Herald:  
I too agree with Lynn Childs on feeling that Police Chief Ken Skerrett, did not do right by Sergeant Jason Fields. As Lynn says after a few drinks these young fellows think they can get away with murder. I don't think a smack hurts them, and if more action was taken, there would not be so much of this high speed along Guelph St. - its terrible.  
Jason has done two kind things for my late husband and me and I do wish him the best. He is a kind man and I do not think he should lose those stripes. I'm with you all the way Jason.  
Sincerely Edna Coates  
(Fiddler)

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