

US ponders hooking up with Maritimes

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get some reaction down here," he said.

"My reaction is that the statement was made purely for political reasons," Buchanan was putting out a worst-case scenario to make Maritimers aware that joining the United States is an option that may be considered if the Meech Lake accord is not ratified and Quebec secedes, he said.

"This is really three or four steps ahead of anything substantive."

Perhaps the \$64-dollar question is this: if Buchanan's worst-case scenario becomes reality, would the United States even want to accept a region that is troubled by high unemployment, crippled fisheries and is heavily dependent on federal financial support?

Absolutely, the answer is yes, says Birns.

"I would imagine there would be no opposition to the acceptance of those territories," he said.

"We're not talking about the Dominican Republic or Haiti here. We're talking about people of our own stock, the noble fisherman, farmers and so on. It would be a very attractive proposition, despite the economic problems."

Because "the average Canadian knows 10 times more about the United States than we know about Canada," Americans have developed an "uncomplicated affection" towards Canada that would predispose them into accepting Canadian provinces, he said.

Despite the musings about provinces joining the republic, though, Birns said Buchanan's comments shouldn't be taken too seriously by Canadians or Americans.

"I think it's all rhetorical overkill."

Bourassa may hope Meech Lake accord fails

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receiving on the home front. One poll indicates that while 36 per cent of Quebecers have confidence in Mr. Parizeau to lead the province to "sovereignty-association," a surprising 35 per cent have the same confidence in Mr. Bourassa.

LITTLE WONDER

The premier, officially a federalist, has not weakened this confidence by talking so much about what might happen should the Meech accord fail. Remember his remarks in Europe about the possible emergence of a new "political superstructure" and his talk of a Canadian common market, much like Europe's?

He has also announced the formation of a committee to study Quebec's options in the event of Meech's failure.

Meanwhile, he has been doing

absolutely nothing to break the present impasse. And one gets the impression that Mr. Bourassa feels far more comfortable now in declaring it's Meech or nothing. He says it with the assurance of someone who knows he has the full support of his people.

One also gets the impression, from everything being said in Quebec, that support for the premier will rise if the accord goes down the drain. He would clearly have a free hand to feud with Ottawa and the other provinces over any constitutional power-sharing.

That would be the moment, says La Presse, when "the state of Quebec must avoid taking a turn that is too radical, ill-considered or overblown through rancor or foolishness by conviction or opportunism."

Yes, the last three years have seen a lot of changes in Quebec.



Nanci McNeil (left), Carolyn Crooks (centre) and Shannon Marshall rehearse a scene from The Globe Theatre's production of Just Go To The Movies. The dinner-theatre show will be presented May 3-5 and May 9-12 at the Ballinacree Hall. Tickets are \$18. For tickets contact Royal LePage Real Estate at 877-0173.

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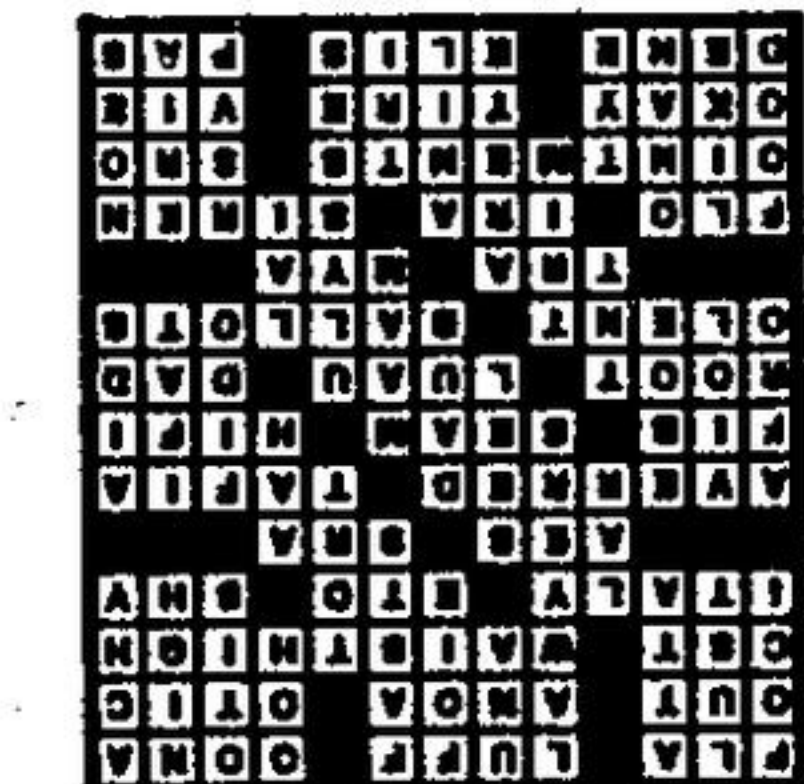
ACROSS

- 1 South of Ga.
- 4 Selling maneuver
- 8 Mrs. Charles Chaplin
- 12 Auro
- 13 Small forest
- 14 Of the ear
- 15 Tax. line
- 16 Up to belt
- 18 European country
- 20 WWI area
- 21 Not beautiful
- 22 Roman bronze
- 24 Mrs. in Madrid
- 26 Declared positively
- 30 Type of rum
- 34 Tall tale
- 35 Blinded line
- 37 Photograph machine
- 38 Part of a plant
- 40 Food in Hawaii
- 42 Male parent
- 43 Fragrant
- 45 Votes
- 47 Staging
- 48 Class games

- 50 Mr. Ziegfeld
- 53 A Germain
- 55 Alarming sea creature
- 59 Balms
- 62 Theater sign (abbr.)
- 63 All right
- 64 Exhaust
- 65 Complete
- 66 Sand Mill
- 67 Walk and
- 68 Dance step

DOWN

- 1 Central point
- 2 Craving
- 3 Leaf-cutting ant
- 4 Attorneys
- 5 Actress
- 6 Pils de —
- 7 Starves voluntarily
- 8 Conspicuous of 25 down
- 9 Cornelia —
- 10 Near
- 11 Sore
- 17 Civil wrong
- 19 Age



- 23 Close falcon eyes
- 25 Joyful exclamation
- 26 Bushy hairdo
- 27 Stringed instrument
- 28 Central American oil tree
- 29 Smear
- 31 Flower's head
- 32 — — first you don't ...
- 33 Assists
- 36 Yes. —
- 38 An explosive
- 41 — S. Grant
- 44 Spruce
- 46 Medieval poem
- 48 Mountain ridge
- 50 Nourishment
- 51 Resembling
- 52 — — even keel
- 54 Blue dye
- 56 Request for reply
- 57 Silkworm
- 58 Words of denial
- 60 Nautical rope
- 61 In plus one

