

# Yes and No sides hammer it out in constitutional debate at Reding

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Slamming his fist on the podium, a frustrated Yes Committee speaker told a referendum information meeting that no constitutional deal is flawless.

"There is no perfect (deal)," Gordon Cummings of Oakville yelled to about 90 people who attended the debate at Bishop Reding Secondary School Wednesday night. "If any group is 100 per cent for it, you know they got too much."

But his opponent Rick Malboeuf of Milton told the crowd they don't deserve anything less than perfection.

"There is no reason why we as Canadians should accept a flawed and imperfect constitution," he said.

Mr. Malboeuf, who lost his bid for the Reform Party candidacy in Oakville-Milton, warned voters not to say yes because they're "fed up with the process."

"I cannot stand here and say there will be no negative action to a no vote, but it will be short term," commented the Quebec native who told the audience they should turn down the amendments.

Mr. Cummings agreed with Mr. Malboeuf that the Charlottetown Accord adds 42 more members of parliament to the House of Commons, but added that there would also be 36 less people in the Senate. That means the total number of MPs at Parliament Hill would total

337, each costing taxpayers \$500,000 a year, argued Mr. Malboeuf. Under the consensus, the proposed Triple-E senate would mean each province would have six senators, and they would be elected, not appointed.

Mr. Cummings said a Constitution is a series of principles. "It's a statement of the type of country we want to be," he told the crowd. "It's not a law."

Aboriginal self-government is a wise move, said Mr. Cummings, because Canada's federal government's dealings with native people "hasn't worked."

But Mr. Malboeuf questioned how the move for Aboriginal people to run their own schools, hospitals and policing would be financed.

He also said "bickering" over the Constitution won't end by a "Yes" vote because many issues in the accord would still have to be negotiated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Malboeuf predicted most provinces will turn down the deal Monday.

"How much do you want to bet?," responded a confident Mr. Cummings turning toward his opponent.

Responding to a citizen who asked why the Conservative government put the constitutional issue in the hands of citizens, Mr. Cummings said it was a move many politicians may now regret.

"I think if the politicians had a choice now, they'd wish they hadn't come to us," he said at the meeting organized by the Milton Jaycees.



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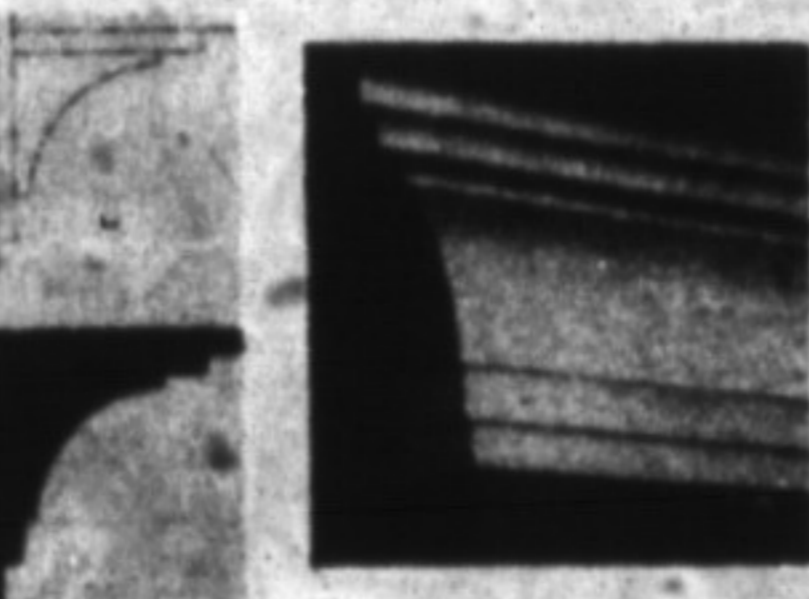


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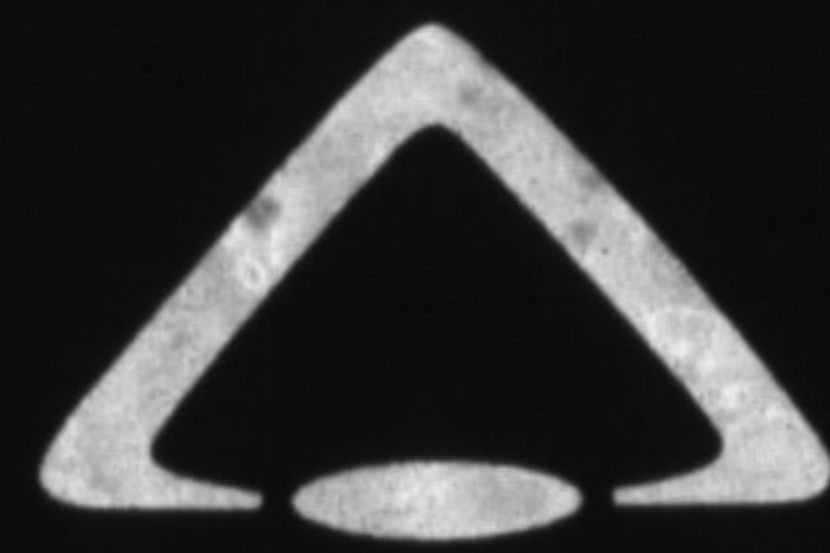
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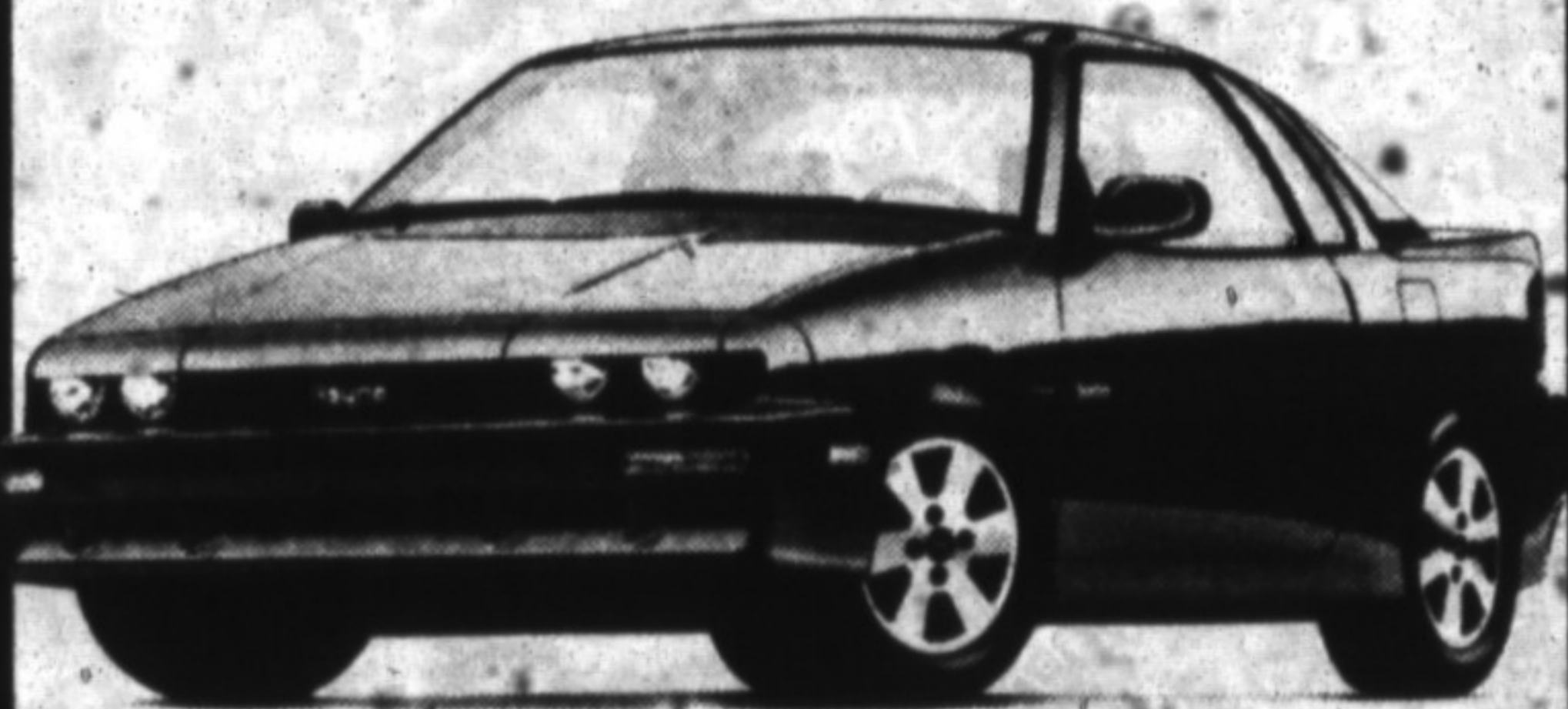
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