

THE HONOURABLE JOHN M. BUCHANAN
PREMIER
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

- AT -

THE CANADIAN CLUB
ROYAL YORK HOTEL
TORONTO - JANUARY 15, 1979

I FEEL AT ONCE BOTH DISTINGLISHED AND OBLIGED TO
SPEAK WITH YOU. THE FORUM YOU OFFER IS WELCOME AND VALUABLE.

WELCOME, BECAUSE IT IS A GRACE TO BE INVITED, AND
VALUABLE, BECAUSE AT LEAST IN MY CASE IT PRESENTS A MAGNIFYING
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OF THE CONCERNS AND VIRTUES OF MY PROVINCE: -
NOVA SCOTIA.

IT WOULD BE AN EASY MATTER TO MISUSE THIS OCCASION, -
BY A TEDIOUS RECITAL OR CONVENTIONAL MARITIME GRIEVANCE. TO -
IF I MAY USE THE WORD - RE-FEED - YOU WITH THE TRITE LITANY OF
ATLANTIC COMPLAINT OR WITH ARTIFICIAL ANGER STRIKE EMPTY BLOWS
AGAINST CENTRAL CANADIAN PREDOMINANCE.

THESE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE.

THEY HAVE PROFITED YOU NONE - AND THEY HAVE PROFITED
THEM WHO SPOKE THEM - LESS.

I COME HERE AS A NOVA SCOTIAN AND I WISH TO SPEAK
OF WHAT I KNOW BEST: - NOVA SCOTIA.

I WISH TO SPEAK OF HER FOR THE ADVANTAGE SHE OFFERS
US ALL - ALL THIS NATION - LEAVING ASIDE THE FRACTIOUS PARTICULARS
OF EVERY DAY POLITICS.

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF AN OVERWHELMING DEBATE - ONE
THAT CURRENTLY ABSORBS THE ENERGIES OF THE MOST ACTIVE CANADIANS
AND THE MINDS OF THE MOST EAGER AND THE BEST.

THE QUESTIONS OF THE DEBATE IS THE DEFINITION OF THIS
COUNTRY, PERHAPS MORE PRECISELY - THIS CANADA. IT IS A STRANGE
CONTEST - A MUTED CIVIL WAR - AN EXCHANGE OF REFERENDA FOR RIFLES
AN ALMOST BLASE SABOTAGE.

WE TALK, OF COURSE, OF QUEBEC - THE SO-CALLED QUEBEC QUESTION.

THIS QUESTION I MUST PUT TO YOU, FASCINATING AS IT IS, IS NOT THE QUESTION OF THIS NATION. IT ABSORBS THE JOURNALISTS - WHO, TO FIND A LIVING MUST FIND THE CRISIS. IT ABSORBS THE HALF-STATESMAN; IT OCCUPIES THE PUBLIC MIND.

BUT - TO SIMPLIFY THE DILEMMA OF CURRENT CANADIANHOOD BY STRICT REFERENCE TO QUEBEC, MR. LESVESQUE OR ANY OTHER SHARPLY-FOCUSED CIRCUMSTANCE, IS A MISDEMEANOR OF THE MIND. - WHICH BRINGS ME HOME.

I BEGAN BY SAYING I WOULD TELL YOU OF THAT I KNEW BEST: - NOVA SCOTIA. HOW I AM TO LINK THAT THEME WITH THE

CURRENT PRE-OCCUPATION OF NATIONAL UNITY OR THE ENDURING DILEMMA OF QUEBEC AND ITS AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS CONFEDERATION MIGHT STRIKE YOU AS A PROBLEM - ALMOST HOLMESIAN IN ITS SINGULARITY, BUT THE CONNECTION IS THERE AND THOUGH SUBTLE IS OF CONSEQUENCE.

WHEN, NOT SO LONG AGO, - I SPEAK NOT AS A PARTISAN, - I WAS CAMPAIGNING FOR THE OFFICE I NOW HOLD, I HELD OUT AS A PRINCIPLE THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL NOVA SCOTIAN VALUES.

THOSE VALUES CONSTITUTE A MINOR GALAXY OF THE INDIVIDUAL SPIRIT:

- SELF-RELIANCE - BRED BY NECESSITY AND NOURISHED BY CHOICE.

- THRIFT - WHICH IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE ABSENCE OF EXCESS IN THE USE OF ANY THING.

- INGENUITY - OR THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CIRCUMSTANCE OR NEED.

THE ENTREPRENURIAL SPIRIT - THE REAL HEART OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
THAT WHICH HAS MADE NOVA SCOTIA AND NOVA SCOTIANS THE ENTERPRISING
PEOPLE THEY ARE.

- A KEEN, ALMOST ACUTE SENSE OR PLACE OF KNOWING THEIR ROOTS AND HOME - NO MINOR VIRTUE IN THIS DIS-LOCATED AGE. AND FINALLY - A NOTION OF COMMUNITY. IN ONE MAN'S IMMORTAL WORDS THAT QUALITY OF BEING INVOLVED WITH ONE ANOTHER, THE MIXING OF SPIRIT TO AID AND TO GROW.

THESE LAST TWO, THE SENSE OF PLACE, HAVING A DEFINITE FEEL, A KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE WE ARE - AND THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY, THE WILLING INVOLVEMENT WITH ONE ANOTHER, ARE THE TWIN MAIN COMPONENTS OF OUR CHARACTER.

THE SEARCH FOR CANADIAN IDENTITY, THE SEARCH FOR A COMMON SET OF LOYALTIES, WILL ONLY BE FOUND WHEN WE DUPLICATE ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THESE TWO ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS.

I THINK THAT THIS IS THE UNDERSTATED CONTRIBUTION

THAT WE - NOVA SCOTIANS - MAKE TO CONFEDERATION. WE OFFER, I SAY IT NOT VAINLY, A STYLE AND A PATTERN OF HARMONY.

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF MY PROVINCE, OR INDEED OF THE ATLANTIC REGION, THERE IS A TENDENCY TO DOWN-PLAY THE VITAL ROLE WE PLAY IN CONFEDERATION. THERE IS OFTEN A TOO-READY BELIEF THAT BECAUSE WE ARE NOT THE ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRIAL CENTRE OF THE COUNTRY OR BECAUSE POLITICALLY WE LACK THE EXTENSIVE CLOUT OF OTHER PROVINCES, THAT WE ARE THEREBY - SOMEWHAT LESS. I FEAR SOMETIMES THAT THIS OPINION OPERATES WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT OCCASIONALLY NOVA SCOTIA IS A SECOND THOUGHT.

TOO OFTEN, TOO, WE ARE STEREOTYPED AS RECIPIENTS, AS NEEDERS RATHER THAN GIVERS AS, - I HOPE I DO NOT SPEAK TOO STRONGLY, - PART OF THE BAGGAGE OF CONFEDERATION.

THIS IS A DAMAGING IMPRESSION - MORE DAMAGING TO THOSE THAT HOLD IT THAN IT IS TO OURSELVES; FOR ANY CONCEPTION THAT MINIMIZES THE STRENGTHS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ONE PROVINCE, MINIMIZES THE WHOLE. AND WORSE, IT OBSCURES AND DARKENS THE PERCEPTION OF THOSE VIRTUES OF CHARACTER AND LIFE STYLE WHICH IF EXTENDED AND IMITATED WOULD DO SO MUCH TO DIMINISH THE FRICTIONS WHICH TROUBLE THIS ANXIOUS COUNTRY.

PEOPLE SPEAK OF NOVA SCOTIA AS A HAVE-NOT PROVINCE AND SPEAK IT SO FREQUENTLY, IT HAS BECOME A BELIEF. I THINK THERE ARE TIMES WE BELIEVE IT OURSELVES.

I CANNOT THINK IN WHAT SENSE THE TERM APPLIES. WE ARE SUFFICIENT IN OUR RESOURCES AND OUR PEOPLE. IT IS TRUE WE HAVE AMBITIONS TO PURSUE, DEVELOPMENT WE WISH AND NEEDS TO

FULFILL. AND IT IS TRUE THAT IN THOSE PURSUITS WE MUST ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF OUTSIDE RESOURCES. BUT THAT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY DENOTE US - HAVE-NOT; RATHER HAVING MUCH - WE WISH MORE.

THIS INSTITUTION - THE CANADIAN CLUB - IS A COLLEGE OF INFLUENCE. I SPECULATE YOU WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF NOVA SCOTIA WERE LESS AGGRESSIVE, LESS DETERMINED AND LESS ASSERTIVE. WE ARE A DYNAMIC PROVINCE. WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT OTHER PROVINCES CAN ONLY LOOK BACK AT.

IT WAS OSCAR WILDE WHO REMARKED THAT THE ONLY THING MORE INTERESTING THAN A WOMAN WITH A PAST WAS ONE WITH A FUTURE. THAT, WITH DUE VARIATION, IS THE STORY OF NOVA SCOTIA. BUT, BECAUSE WE ARE ACTIVE, AND VIGOROUS, BECAUSE WE SEEK TO MOVE, IS CERTAINLY NO SIGNATURE OF HAVE-NOT.

WE HAVE OURSELVES TO BLAME, I THINK, FOR PERPETUATING THAT DESIGNATION - A TOO-WILLING SERVITUDE TO A COZY CLICHE'.

THE VOICES OF THIS COUNTRY ARE READILY IDENTIFIABLE. FROM THE WEST - ALIENATION; FROM THE CENTRE - STRENGTH; BRITISH COLUMBIA - DISTANCE; QUEBEC - DISCONTENT; AND OURSELVES LAMENT.

I TAKE IT AS A PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO REVISE THAT CHORUS. NOVA SCOTIA, AT LEAST, WILL SPEAK DIFFERENTLY. WE FORSAKE THE NOTION THAT OUR REGION IS AN IMPOVERISHED STEP-CHILD OF CONFEDERATION.

WHAT IS MORE, WE ASSERT THAT IN OUR VALUES AND SOCIETY WE HAVE A SPECIAL THING TO BRING TO THE COMITY OF OUR LAND.

I SUGGEST TO YOU THAT OUR PROVINCE AND OUR REGION

HAVE FOUND THEIR MANHOOD AND THAT FROM OUR WAYS - A NEW WAY MAY BE FOUND.

IN THE BEGINNING, I HINTED THAT - IN OUR EXPERIENCE - MIGHT BE FOUND A RESOLUTION FOR THE CURRENT DEBATE. I GAVE A RECITATION OF THOSE TRADITIONAL VALUES THAT MAKE UP, - THAT MAKE NOVA SCOTIA,

I TALKED OF COMMUNITY AND PLACE, AND BY MY DIGRESSION INTO THE DISCUSSION OF "HAVE-NOT", I WAS FIXING THE POINT OF REDRESS.

CANADA IS A COUNTRY OF EQUAL STRENGTH, THOUGH OF VARIOUS QUALITIES, WE MUST ALL BORROW FROM ONE ANOTHER, WHAT WE BORROW IS TANGIBLE, WHAT WE RETURN IS ELUSIVE AND INTANGEIBLE PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPORT A SENSE OF COMMUNITY OR

PLACE. MORE DIFFICULT STILL - TO GIVE IT ADEQUATE MEASURE. IT
MAY SEEM LIKE AN EASY TRADE - THE DIFFERENCE IS - AS THAT BETWEEN
SPIRIT AND BODY.

NOVA SCOTIANS AND MARITIMERS IN WHAT THEY ARE - AND
HOW THEY ARE - IN THEIR VERY TEMPER, - PRESENT THE IMAGE OF WHAT IS
NECESSARY FOR THE TIMES. - WITH ALL DUE HUMILITY, - LET US HELP
YOU.