

NOTES FOR REMARKS

BY THE

HONOURABLE DON GETTY

PREMIER OF ALBERTA

ON THE OCCASION OF

DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

JANUARY 9, 1992

MR. CHAIRMAN, CABINET COLLEAGUES, HEAD TABLE GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE WITH YOU EARLY IN 1992.

THE ROTARY CLUB HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDMONTON AND ALBERTA, AND I'M ALWAYS PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH A GROUP THAT HAS SUCH A SOLID RECORD OF SERVICE.

THIS NEW YEAR MAY WELL BE ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX IN THE LIFE OF OUR PROVINCE -- AND IT APPEARS TO BE A YEAR WHEN ALBERTANS AND THOSE WHO LEAD THIS PROVINCE ARE GOING TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES TO FACE, AND SIGNIFICANT CHOICES TO MAKE.

THE CHOICES MUST BE MADE AS ALL OF US ARE BEING BOMBARDED WITH CHANGE.

LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL PICTURE.

IT'S ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT CANADIAN PILOTS, MANY FROM ALBERTA, WERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN CANADA'S FIRST WAR SINCE KOREA -- AND YET HOW LONG AGO THAT ALREADY SEEMS.

IT'S ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO THAT GERMANY WAS REUNITED, SEPARATED SINCE WORLD WAR II, YET ALREADY WE TAKE THAT UNITY FOR GRANTED.

AND THREE WEEKS AGO, THE WHOLE OF WESTERN EUROPE CAME TO A REMARKABLE AGREEMENT TOWARD GREATER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNION.

JUST EIGHT DAYS AGO, A SUPER POWER -- THE SOVIET UNION OFFICIALLY CAME TO AN END -- AND WITH IT, A COMMUNIST EMPIRE THAT MOST OF US ASSUMED WOULD LAST FOR CENTURIES.

I OBVIOUSLY AM NOT HERE TO DWELL ON THESE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, EXCEPT THEY DO PROVIDE A PERSPECTIVE AND BACKGROUND -- AND CERTAINLY FUEL A MOOD OF UNCERTAINTY.

UNCERTAINTY IS PERHAPS THE MOST PERVASIVE OF ALL MOODS RIGHT NOW -- MORE SO THAN ANY TIME I HAVE SEEN IN MY OWN YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE. (MAY 1967)

PART OF IT RELATES TO ECONOMIC ISSUES -- AND WITHOUT DOUBT, THOSE ARE OUR GREATEST CONCERNS IN ALBERTA THESE DAYS.

BUT ALSO, HERE IN THE WINTER OF 1992, THERE'S THE ADDITIONAL AND UNAVOIDABLE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CANADA -- AND I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT NATIONAL UNITY.

BUT FIRST, LET ME BEGIN WITH A PERSPECTIVE ON OUR ECONOMY IN ALBERTA.

WITHOUT DOUBT, ALBERTA FEELS THE MOOD OF NATIONAL RECESSION; WE CANNOT HELP BUT BE AFFECTED WHEN WE SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS LIKE THOSE MADE RECENTLY BY ENERGY COMPANIES, GENERAL MOTORS, RETAILERS, AND OTHERS.

BUT THERE IS A POINT WHICH I CANNOT STATE WITH TOO MUCH EMPHASIS. ALBERTA IS NOT IN RECESSION. LET'S NOT TALK OURSELVES INTO ONE.

IF WE WERE ALWAYS TO BELIEVE THE CRITICS, WITH THEIR EASY SCORN, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT ALBERTA IS A FAILURE THESE DAYS.

POOR HOSPITALS, BAD SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, BAD HIGHWAYS, BAD SENIOR CITIZENS' PROGRAMS, HUNGRY CITIZENS, A POOR FUTURE, A TERRIBLE ECONOMY. WHAT NONSENSE!

IN TRUTH, THOUGH WORRIED AND TROUBLED, ALBERTA'S ECONOMY IS STILL PERFORMING BETTER THAN OTHER PROVINCES.

WE HAVE THE BEST HEALTH SYSTEM IN CANADA, THE BEST EDUCATION, THE BEST HIGHWAYS, THE BEST SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS, GENEROUS AND COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES.

I'M TIRED, AND I THINK YOU SHOULD BE ALSO, OF THE MINDLESS NEGATIVE PICTURE TRYING TO BE ESTABLISHED BY SOME.

SURELY WE HAVE TO BUILD, NOT TEAR DOWN OUR PROVINCE.

WITHOUT QUESTION, SOME OF THE DIFFICULT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS ARE HURTING ALBERTANS.

WE SAW IT THIS PAST FALL AND CHRISTMAS SEASON IN RETAIL SALES, WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF ALBERTANS - BECAUSE OF THEIR UNCERTAINTY -- HELD BACK THEIR PURCHASES.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RECESSION HAS HAD A HARSH EFFECT ON MANY BUSINESSES IN ALBERTA'S RETAIL SECTOR - INCLUDING, I KNOW, SOME PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM.

AND I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT THIS WINTER AND COMING SPRING UPON MANY ALBERTANS.

THERE ARE THREE PARTICULAR AREAS WHERE WE NEED TO BE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED IN ALBERTA.

THE FIRST IS UNEMPLOYMENT. FIGURES ARE STILL NOT AS SEVERE AS WE SAW SEVEN AND EIGHT YEARS AGO IN ALBERTA.

IF YOU RECALL IN EDMONTON THEN, UNEMPLOYMENT REACHED UP TO 14% IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES.

BUT SINCE THE MID-EIGHTIES, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS NEVER EASED THE WAY WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, AND IT HAS CREPT UP AGAIN WITH THE NATIONAL RECESSION. AND FIGURES ARE TOUGH RIGHT NOW.

NO ISSUE IS OF GREATER CONCERN FOR ME THAN THE EFFECT UPON THOSE ALBERTANS WHO CANNOT FIND THE JOBS WHICH SUIT THEIR SKILLS.

WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO KEEP THIS PROVINCE GROWING, SO THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE EMPLOYED.

EVEN FOR ALBERTANS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY UNEMPLOYMENT, THERE IS THE WIDESPREAD UNCERTAINTY WHICH IS SO STRONGLY FELT RIGHT NOW.

PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

OUR SECOND AREA OF ECONOMIC CONCERN IN ALBERTA MUST BE AGRICULTURE.

THERE IS NO WAY TO GET AROUND THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD CONTINUE TO BE IRRESPONSIBLE IN THEIR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND SUBSIDIES -- AND AS A RESULT OUR FARMERS IN WESTERN CANADA ARE BLEEDING.

MUCH AS OUR PHILOSOPHY IS NOT AN INTERVENTIONIST ONE -- WE CANNOT STAND BY AND SEE THOUSANDS OF ALBERTA FARMERS THREATENED, THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES THEY DID NOT CREATE.

WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO HELP. THE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE IS WORKING. AND PERHAPS A BREAKTHROUGH IS NEAR INTERNATIONALLY IN GATT.

IN THE LONG RUN, AGRICULTURE MUST BE A FUNDAMENTAL BASE FOR ALBERTA -- IF IT CANNOT THRIVE HERE, THEN IT WILL NEVER THRIVE ANY PLACE, BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH A NATURAL ADVANTAGE.

THE THIRD AREA OF CONCERN, IS THE ENERGY SECTOR, WHERE REVENUES ARE DRAMATICALLY BELOW WHAT THE EXPERTS WERE ALL PROJECTING EVEN SIX MONTHS AGO.

MANY OF YOU WILL BE AWARE OF THE "CRUDE OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM", WHICH WE ANNOUNCED A FEW WEEKS AGO -- AND I WON'T GET INTO THE DETAILS TODAY, EXCEPT THAT WE BELIEVE IT IS MAKING A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN LEVELS OF ACTIVITY.

YET DESPITE THE SEVERE ISSUES I HAVE MENTIONED -- IN RETAIL, IN FARMING, IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY -- AND WITH UNEMPLOYMENT -- LET ME REITERATE ONE MORE TIME THAT ALBERTA IS NOT IN RECESSION.

WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR TOUGHEST WINTER IN SIX YEARS, AND NONE OF US CAN PRETEND OTHERWISE.

NO-ONE CAN EXPECT ALBERTA TO BE IMMUNE FROM PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT THIS WHOLE CONTINENT.

BUT THOSE WHO EXAGGERATE THE SITUATION ARE DOING NO SERVICE TO ALBERTA THESE DAYS, BECAUSE THEY ARE OFTEN CREATING WORRY AND UNCERTAINTY OUT OF PROPORTION TO OUR PROBLEMS.

JUST AS ALBERTANS NEED TO KNOW THE TOUGH ISSUES, ALBERTANS SURELY DESERVE A BALANCED PICTURE -- SO THEY CAN GET A BETTER SENSE OF HOW THINGS REALLY ARE.

AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT THERE IS RESPONSIBILITY HERE THAT EVERYONE CAN EXERCISE, INCLUDING POLITICIANS AND INCLUDING THE MEDIA.

THE QUESTION I LIKE TO ASK THESE DAYS IS A SIMPLE ONE: IF AGRICULTURE IS IN DIRE STRAITS -- AND THE PETROLEUM SECTOR IS HAVING SUCH A HARSH TIME -- THEN SOMETHING ELSE MUST BE DRIVING ALBERTA -- BECAUSE OUR ECONOMY IS STILL DOING BETTER THAN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.

THE MAJOR FACTOR HAS BEEN OUR DIVERSIFICATION.

ALL OF YOU IN THIS ROOM HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE SUPPOSED FAILURE OF OUR EFFORTS AT DIVERSIFICATION.

YET IN RECENT MONTHS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS HAVE MOVED TO ALBERTA. WHY? BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD GROWTH WHILE OTHERS HAVE HAD DECLINE.

THESE CANADIANS UNDERSTAND THE HARSHNESS OF REALITIES. THE ISSUES ARE NOT FRIVOLOUS FOR THEM, BECAUSE THEY HAVE UPROOTED THEIR HOMES AND LEFT FAMILIES BEHIND.

THEY HAVE LOOKED ACROSS CANADA, AND THEY HAVE JUDGED AND UNDERSTOOD THAT ALBERTA IS THE PROVINCE OF OPPORTUNITY.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE SPREAD OF WHAT I CALL "THE CANADIAN DISEASE" THESE DAYS.
EVERY THOUGHTFUL CANADIAN MUST BE CONCERNED BY IT.

BECAUSE ACROSS CANADA, AND UNFORTUNATELY IN ALBERTA, IT IS BASED ON A NEGATIVISM WHICH HURTS OUR COUNTRY -- AND HURTS OUR PROVINCE.

IT IS THE HABIT OF ATTACKING INITIATIVES -- DESTROYING PROPOSALS -- TEARING THINGS DOWN.
THERE'S A CYNICISM THAT DENIES SUCCESS, AND RIDICULES GENUINE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

WE CAN NOT ALLOW THE CANADIAN AND ALBERTA AGENDA TO BE DOMINATED BY CYNICS AND KNOCKERS -- WHETHER POLITICIANS OR MEDIA OR ANY PART OF OUR SOCIETY.

WHERE DO THEY FEEL THE NEW ALBERTA JOBS HAVE COME FROM?

LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO TELL YOU WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO IN ALBERTA.

NEW JOBS HAVE COME THROUGH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY -- WHERE WE HAVE 50,000 NEW PEOPLE EMPLOYED AND 3,200 NEW PRODUCTS WHICH DIDN'T EVEN EXIST 10 YEARS AGO. EDMONTON IS A CENTRE FOR RESEARCH.

THE POTENTIAL IS TREMENDOUS. (ALBERTA RESEARCH COUNCIL; AOSTRA; COAL RESEARCH -- DEVON; ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH -- VEGREVILLE; UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES & HOSPITALS)

SOME OF OUR GROWTH IS IN MANUFACTURING -- AND HERE OUR INVESTMENT LEVELS HAVE TRIPLED SINCE 1985 -- ALTHOUGH IT'S A TOUGH TIME FOR MANUFACTURING ALL ACROSS CANADA.

OUR MANUFACTURING RECORD IN ALBERTA HAS SUCCESSFULLY RUN COUNTER TO NATIONAL TRENDS.

PROBABLY THE BEST EXAMPLE IS THE FORESTRY SECTOR -- AND AGAIN, THERE ARE THE CRITICS -- THE PEOPLE WHO COMPLAIN WHEN WE CREATE JOBS FOR ALBERTANS BECAUSE THEY HAVE OTHER INTERESTS.

SUCCESS IS NOT FOR THEM.

BUT FOR MANY COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA -- AND FOR THIS CITY OF EDMONTON -- IMAGINE HOW MANY MORE DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD HAVE IF WE HADN'T TAKEN A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE FORESTRY SECTOR.

I DON'T REALLY EXPECT THE CRITICS TO CHANGE, BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU AND OTHER ALBERTANS TO UNDERSTAND JUST HOW POSITIVE IT HAS BEEN FOR ALBERTA THAT WE ARE NO LONGER SO DEPENDENT UPON THE ENERGY AND FARM SECTORS ALONE.

LET ME CLOSE MY COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMY BY STATING VERY QUICKLY SOME OF OUR POSITIONS OF RECENT MONTHS.

WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE KEY SECTORS OF ALBERTA'S ECONOMY, EVEN IF THAT AFFECTS OUR CHANCES FOR A BALANCED BUDGET THIS YEAR.

FOR SIX YEARS, OUR RECORD OF SPENDING CONTROL HAS BEEN THE BEST IN CANADA -- BUT NOW, WE MUST STRIKE THE BEST BALANCE BETWEEN OUR CONTINUING FISCAL RESTRAINT -- AND THE NEED TO KEEP THIS PROVINCE STRONG DURING A NATIONAL RECESSION.

I CHALLENGE YOU IN ROTARY TO SHAKE-OFF THOSE WITH THE DESTRUCTIVE AGENDAS.
YOU ARE LEADERS IN ALBERTA.

AND WHEN YOU HEAR ALL THE COMPLAINING AND NEGATIVES, STOP AND SAY TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS -- WAIT A MINUTE..

LOOK AROUND -- ISN'T IT JUST POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD PLACE TO LIVE?

ISN'T IT JUST POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD PROVINCE, AND JUST POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD COUNTRY?

ISN'T IT TIME WE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT BUILDING OUR PROVINCE AND COUNTRY, AND NOT TEARING THEM DOWN?

HERE IN ALBERTA, DESPITE THE MOOD OF UNCERTAINTY, THERE IS A GOOD DEAL MORE STRENGTH THAN ONE HEARS ABOUT.

HERE IS A RECENT EXAMPLE.

WHEN WE MADE OUR LATEST OFFERING OF TELUS SHARES, PEOPLE IN THIS PROVINCE WERE SO POSITIVE ABOUT THE LONG TERM POTENTIAL OF THIS ALBERTA BASED COMPANY, THAT THEY WERE WILLING TO INVEST OVER \$1 BILLION IN TELUS.

IT WAS A REMARKABLE SHOW OF FAITH, AND ALBERTANS ARE RIGHT TO HAVE THAT KIND OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN ALBERTA'S FUTURE.

AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF MY REMARKS, I ALSO WANTED TO TALK FOR A FEW MOMENTS ABOUT CANADA'S FUTURE AS A COUNTRY.

I KNOW THAT PEOPLE ARE EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED WITH THIS NATIONAL UNITY ISSUE -- AND I DON'T BLAME THEM.

BUT THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL FACT WE CANNOT AVOID.

WE STILL MUST RESOLVE THESE MATTERS BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE WILL BE A CANADA AT ALL.

AND SO LONG AS THIS ISSUE IS UN-RESOLVED, IT WILL AFFECT EVERY OTHER ASPECT OF OUR LIFE, INCLUDING OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS.

WE HAVE HAD OUR SPECIAL, ALL PARTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DEPUTY PREMIER JIM HORSMAN, SEEKING THE INPUTS OF ALBERTANS ON NATIONAL UNITY.

IT IS AN ALL PARTY COMMITTEE BECAUSE I BELIEVE THIS ISSUE MUST NOT BE PARTISAN. IT CROSSES ALL PARTY LINES.

IN THIS REGARD, I CONGRATULATE RAY MARTIN. UNFORTUNATELY THE LIBERAL LEADER IS A DISAPPOINTMENT.

BECAUSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK, I HAVE BEEN HESITANT TO BECOME TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT ALBERTA'S POSITION -- AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MANY THINGS WILL EMERGE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT HAS BECOME IMPORTANT THAT I LAY OUT SOME BROAD PRINCIPLES FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALBERTA TO CONSIDER.

NOT YET A CABINET OR CAUCUS POSITION.

BUT THIS IS NOT AN OCCASION FOR SECRECY OR MYSTERY. THIS IS NOT A TIME TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURE. IF WE HAVE IDEAS THAT CAN HEAL OUR COUNTRY, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THEM.

WE NEED OPEN DIALOGUE, AND THE DEBATE IN THIS PROVINCE NEEDS TO BE HONEST AND DIRECT.

ALBERTANS WILL NEED TO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN HEARD.

AND I GIVE ALBERTANS THIS COMMITMENT...

THERE WILL BE NO ALBERTA AGREEMENT OR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WITHOUT THE PEOPLE, WHOSE CONSTITUTION IT IS, BEING ASKED FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT.

ONE OF OUR PROBLEMS ON THIS MATTER IS, I BELIEVE, THAT WE ARE NEARING CONSTITUTIONAL OVERLOAD -- THE FEDERAL PACKAGE IS BECOMING TOO BIG AND TOO COMPLEX FOR MOST OF US.

SO TODAY, LET ME START BY PRESENTING JUST A FEW POINTS WHICH I HOPE ALBERTANS AND CANADIANS WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER -- AS A HELPFUL STEP IN HEALING AND STRENGTHENING OUR COUNTRY.

1. THE FIRST POSITION IS THE EASIEST ONE, BUT REMARKABLY, IT STILL NEEDS TO BE SAID.

ALBERTANS BELIEVE IN A UNITED CANADA. WE ARE NOT PART TIME CANADIANS.

WE ARE NOT CANADIANS BECAUSE WE SEEK SPECIAL ADVANTAGE -- WE PAY OUR WAY, AND MORE.

BUT RATHER WE ARE CANADIANS BECAUSE WE LOVE THIS COUNTRY MORE THAN ANY PLACE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

2. NEXT, THE FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION MUST BE THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY.

NO CANADIAN -- WHEREVER THEY LIVE -- SHOULD BE LESS OF A PERSON THAN ANY OTHER CANADIAN.

NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN OUR CONSTITUTION THAT COULD EVER BE INTERPRETED IN A MANNER THAT COULD WEAKEN THE EQUALITY OF ALL CANADIANS. (I WISH CONSTITUTIONS COULD BE SIMPLER.)

3. THIRD, SENATE REFORM MUST TAKE PLACE -- TO GIVE BALANCE IN OUR NATION.

ALBERTA AND THE WEST NEED THIS CHANGE. FOR ALBERTA, SENATE REFORM MEANS ONE THING -- TRIPLE E -- AS I HAVE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN, THESE PAST FEW YEARS.

WE BEGAN THE CRUSADE FOR THIS KIND OF SENATE, AND IT IS ALBERTA'S CAUSE.

ELECTED -- TO BALANCE AN ELECTED HOUSE OF COMMONS -- BUT ELECTIONS NOT HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

EFFECTIVE -- THEY WILL BE COMPLEX POWERS -- BUT MUST BE ABLE TO STOP A NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM.

EQUAL -- TO BALANCE THE LARGE POPULATION CENTRES THAT DOMINATE OUR PARLIAMENT.

~~THERE CAN BE DISCUSSIONS AND CONSULTATIONS, AND THERE CAN BE CONFERENCES, BUT THEY MAY AS WELL KNOW MY VIEW.~~

NO CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE WITHOUT A TRIPLE E SENATE.

4. FOURTH, I BELIEVE THAT ALBERTA SHOULD ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF ABORIGINAL SELF GOVERNMENT, BUT IT SHOULD BE WELL DEFINED IN THE CONTEXT OF CANADA -- ONE NATION.

NOT SEPARATE NATIONS WITHIN OUR COUNTRY.

5. NEXT, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT ALBERTA CAN ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF A DISTINCT SOCIETY...

BUT ONLY IF DISTINCT IS DEFINED TO MEAN DIFFERENT, AND REFLECTS THE REALITY THAT QUEBEC HAS A DIFFERENT HISTORY AND TRADITION.

DISTINCT SOCIETY CANNOT MEAN A PREFERRED OR SPECIAL PLACE FOR ONE PROVINCE OR GROUP OVER THE OTHERS.

AGAIN, THERE CAN BE NO SPECIAL STATUS. ALL CANADIANS MUST BE EQUAL.

6. I PROPOSE THAT ALBERTANS CAN SUPPORT THE IDEA OF AN ECONOMIC UNION -- SO LONG AS THAT UNION MEANS ONE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY -- NOT ONE OF CONTROL FROM THE CENTRE.

7. NEXT, ALBERTA'S POSITION HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS, AND MUST CONTINUE TO BE, THAT NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE PROVINCES.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT CHANGES IN THIS CRITICAL AREA.

8. NEXT, I RECOMMEND SUPPORT FOR RESTRICTING FEDERAL SPENDING POWER IN AREAS OF EXCLUSIVE PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION.

THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN CONTROVERSIAL, BUT ALBERTA HAS BEEN PENALIZED TOO OFTEN BY FEDERAL SPENDING POWERS IN THE PAST.

WE SHOULD NOT BE SO NAIVE TO FORGET OUR OWN LESSONS OF HISTORY. JUST AS QUEBEC REMEMBERS, SO TOO SHOULD ALBERTA.

9. NEXT, I PROPOSE THAT ALBERTA REJECT ANY PROPOSAL FOR A SOCIAL CHARTER, AND LEAVE SOCIAL POLICY TO OUR LEGISLATURES RATHER THAN THE COURTS.

WE JUST SAW THE DEBATES IN EUROPE OVER SOCIAL CHARTERS, AND I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHY THE CONSERVATIVES IN BRITAIN WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPOSITION OF A SOCIALIST CHARTER ON THEIR SOCIETY.

10. AS A TENTH POINT, I BELIEVE THAT ALL PROVINCES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEED TO APPROACH THE ISSUE OF THE AMENDING FORMULA WITH A NEW AND OPEN ATTITUDE.

WHILE WE MUST PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR PROVINCES, THERE NEEDS TO BE COMPROMISE -- OR THIS ISSUE COULD CAUSE US TO FAIL.

FOR DECADES THE AMENDING FORMULA ISSUE HAS DOMINATED CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE, BUT TO ME, CANADIANS JUST WON'T TOLERATE THESE LEGALISMS ANY MORE.

QUEBEC HAS ALWAYS SAID IT MUST HAVE A VETO. I BELIEVE IF QUEBEC GETS A VETO, SO MUST WE.

IF THEY BACK OFF ON THE VETO -- SO WILL WE.

11. NEXT, I PROPOSE THAT ALBERTANS SUPPORT MULTICULTURALISM AS A POSITIVE CHARACTERISTIC OF CANADA.

WE ARE NOT A NARROW PEOPLE, AND WE ARE BETTER BECAUSE WE HAVE WELCOMED PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE DIVERSITY OF THEIR BACKGROUND GIVES US STRENGTH.

BUT I PROPOSE THAT THERE BE A NEW CONDITION -- THAT MULTICULTURALISM SHOULD NOT BE A MATTER IMPOSED BY LAW IN CANADA.

MULTICULTURALISM DOES NOT MEAN HYPHENATED CANADIANS.

WE SHOULD LET MULTICULTURALISM EVOLVE AND HAVE WHATEVER FORM IT TAKES HAPPEN NATURALLY. IT SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF THE REALM OF LEGALITY.

12. MY FINAL POINT TODAY IS ONE WHICH I WOULD ASK EVERY ALBERTAN AND CANADIAN TO CONSIDER WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CARE -- BECAUSE IT IS A POSITION I HAVE NEVER STATED BEFORE.

I PROPOSE THAT IN CANADA, WE RE-COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE CONCEPT OF BILINGUALISM AS A POSITIVE, FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTIC OF CANADIAN UNITY -- BUT, I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME WHEN BILINGUALISM SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE FORCE OF LAW.

THIS WOULD BE A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN CANADA. BILINGUALISM BY CHOICE, NOT LAW.

I MAKE THIS PROPOSAL AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF SOUL SEARCHING BECAUSE IT RELIES ON AN ATTITUDE OF OPENNESS AND TOLERANCE, RATHER THAN LEGAL FORCE.

IT TAKES US BACK TO THE CANADIAN WAY OF WORKING TOGETHER BECAUSE THAT IS HOW WE FEEL -- NOT BECAUSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TOLD US HOW WE MUST BEHAVE.

I PRESENT THIS SENSITIVE POSITION BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSITIVE FOR CANADA.

I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF ANY INTOLERANCE, OR ANY MOVEMENT WHICH FEEDS MISUNDERSTANDING.

I WANT NO PART OF POLICIES WHICH SAY TO QUEBEC: YOU ARE NOT WELCOME.

MY CANADA HAS QUEBEC IN IT.

BUT I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SOMEHOW IN CANADA, WE NEED TO FIND NEW WAYS TO REMOVE THE IRRITANTS AMONG US, AND ENFORCED BILINGUALISM HAS BECOME SUCH A SYMBOL ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

TO ME, WE WILL HAVE TRULY ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING IN CANADA, IF WE CAN SAY "OUR LAWS DON'T FORCE US TO, BUT IN OUR HEARTS, WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER AS EQUAL CANADIANS".

THE ISSUE IS NOT THE PHILOSOPHY OF BILINGUALISM. I SUPPORT IT. ALL OF US BENEFIT WHEN WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

IT'S THE IDEA OF BEING FORCED; IT'S THE SENSE OF OBLIGATION WHICH HAS BEEN SO DESTRUCTIVE. AND IT'S TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE.

THE ODD PART ABOUT IT IS THIS. I BELIEVE THAT IF WE REMOVE THE FORCE OF LAW, MANY MORE CANADIANS WILL WILLINGLY EMBRACE BILINGUALISM.

WHAT I ASK ALBERTANS AND OTHERS TO CONSIDER IS A NEW BALANCE -- THAT DOES ENCOURAGE UNDERSTANDING -- THAT ENCOURAGES BILINGUALISM -- BUT TAKES THE ANGER AWAY BECAUSE IT NO LONGER IS A PUNITIVE, UNWELCOME LAW.

IN PRESENTING THESE TWELVE POINTS TO YOU TODAY, I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY GROUP WILL LOOK AT UNITY ISSUES AND APPLY THEIR OWN TESTS. AND I KNOW THE CRITICS WILL QUICKLY CIRCLE TO ATTACK.

IN ROTARY, OVER MANY YEARS YOU HAVE HAD YOUR FOUR WAY TEST.

WHEN YOU EVALUATE A PROPOSAL, YOU ASK: IS IT TRUE? IS IT FAIR? WILL IT GENERATE GOODWILL? IS IT BENEFICIAL?

I BELIEVE THAT MY PROPOSALS ARE TRUE IN THEIR INTENT, AND I BELIEVE THEM TO BE FAIR FOR ALBERTA AND CANADA.

THEY SHOULD GENERATE GOODWILL; AND THAT IS A KEY PART OF WHAT WE NEED IN CANADA, BECAUSE THE GOODWILL IS SO CLEARLY LACKING.

ONE OF MY GREATEST MOTIVATIONS IN PRESENTING THESE POINTS TO YOU TODAY, IS TO SEE IF WE CANNOT START TO DEVELOP POSITIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO GOODWILL AND TAKE THE VENOM OUT OF OUR CANADIAN DEBATES.

AND I BELIEVE THESE PROPOSALS ARE BENEFICIAL FOR ALL CONCERNED, AND I BELIEVE THAT ALL LEADERS IN CANADA MUST ACT NOW -- NOT JUST FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS -- BUT ACT SO THAT ALL CANADIANS WILL BENEFIT FROM OUR UNION.

IN CONCLUSION, I HAVE SOME OF MY OWN TESTS IN TAKING POSITIONS ON NATIONAL UNITY.

I LOOK FOR HONOUR IN WHAT WE PROPOSE AND HOW WE DEBATE.

I LOOK FOR RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE ONCE AGAIN AMONG CANADIANS.

I LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO SEE FIGHTING FOR CANADA AS A NOBLE CAUSE.

I LOOK FOR COOPERATION AND SHARING AMONG GOVERNMENTS.

THIS IS NOT AN EASY TIME FOR THIS COUNTRY-- AND WE NEED TO GIVE OURSELVES TO CANADA -- WE NEED TO BELIEVE IN CANADA -- RATHER THAN FINDING FAULT-- AND KNOCKING CANADA.

THAT'S THE QUICKEST AND SUREST PATH TO DAMAGE OUR COUNTRY.

MY FINAL TEST, IN EVERYTHING I DO RIGHT NOW OVER THIS NATIONAL DEBATE, IS VERY SIMPLE.

AS WE ACT FOR ALBERTA -- WILL WHAT WE PROPOSE HELP TO SAVE CANADA AND MAKE IT STRONG ONCE AGAIN?

I ONLY HOPE WE CAN HELP, AND THAT WHEN HISTORY LOOKS BACK, IT WILL SAY THAT PREMIER DON GETTY, AND HIS ALBERTA GOVERNMENT, FOUGHT HARD TO KEEP CANADA TOGETHER ...

AND MOST OF ALL, I HOPE THAT HISTORY WILL SAY THAT ALBERTA SUCCEEDED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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