

across Canada, from cities to the remotest villages were included.

It was a heady affair for all of us and a watershed experience for me. When we turn our anger into action we can shift things—even major things like a new Constitution for Canada.

The next worry was the mailing cost. Kay Macpherson reminded us that NAC didn't have any funds at all. Laura laughingly responded, "They don't even have a wet sponge pad—here we are licking every envelope." The problem for mailing was a real one—the pile of envelopes was getting high. "How are we going to pay for the stamps?" It was Laura who volunteered and said she'd pay for the stamps, but refused to lick them. Hundreds of envelopes were in the mail by the next day.

The Ad Hoc Committee was a reality. Its members would continue to work and make the Counter Conference in Ottawa a reality. An amazing day. One that began at 10:00 a.m. with a phone call and ended at 10:00 p.m. with the makings of an historic conference underway. It will always be a landmark memory for me. On February 14, 1981, over a thousand women crowded into the Parliament Building in Ottawa to have the conference that Doris Anderson knew was essential.

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Constitute!

(1959 Tune – Rompin' Ronnie Hawkins's song "Mary Lou")

Lyrics (two verses and chorus) by Linda Palmer Nye

Constitute!
They're sellin' diamond rings.
Constitute!
They're offering pearls and things.
Tell 'em you want your rights – every one of them
enshrined.
Tell 'em you got both eyes wide open this time.

Well I went to the Minister Responsible for Me.
You remember then it was Lord Axworthy.
He smiled that smile and he shook those curls;
Said you leave it to me I'll look after you, girls.

Constitute
Sellin' diamond rings.
Constitute!
Offering pearls and things.
We told him we wanted our rights – every damn one of
them enshrined;
Told him we've got both eyes wide open this time.

It was 1981 and they were at it again;
Every single Premier and our favourite PM.
They talked and they traded till they all could agree
They'd just leave out the natives and destroy equality.

Constitute!
They're sellin' diamond rings.
Constitute!
They're offering pearls and things.
Tell 'em you want your rights – every one of them
enshrined.
Tell 'em you got both eyes wide open this time.

Linda Palmer Nye is a feminist, based in Toronto, who writes feminist songs to encourage our sense of humour—and feed the fire in our bellies—because both are essential ingredients for a successful revolution.