Adopted
enjoy the same privileges as members. If it is permissible for a majority of committee members to vote to strike testimony, it would be equally permissible for a majority in the House to strike unwelcome debate from Hansard. To them, the incident raised larger issues about the integrity of parliamentary debate.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND POLITICAL CULTURE

Last month, this column commented on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision, in rejecting camera access to the legislatures, that the Charter does not apply to Nova Scotia's Legislative Assembly (see "Cameras in the Legislature: Strangers or Watchdogs?" (March 1993) 1 Canada Watch 89). There, McLachlin J. stated that the legislative branch must enjoy a certain autonomy, "absolutely and unconditionally," which even the Crown and courts cannot touch.

Neither the legislatures nor the courts have shown a willingness to protect expressive freedom in our representative institutions. Were it not for Stevie Cameron and The Globe and Mail, the public might still be unaware that a parliamentary committee succeeded in purging testimony from the public record.

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THE MONTH IN REVIEW

by Jonathan Batty

CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Defence Minister Kim Campbell announced her candidacy in the race to succeed Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on March 26. Widely believed to be the front-runner, she was the fifth entry into the field. Jean Charest, the federal minister of the environment and only other Cabinet contender, announced his candidacy on March 16. MP Patrick Boyer was first to declare his candidacy on March 9. Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner declared on March 17 and Tory whip James Edwards declared on March 22. No other Cabinet ministers are expected to join the race.

Several ministers ruled out joining the race after exploring their chances, and concluding that Campbell was likely to win. These included Perrin Beatty, Thomas Hockin, Barbara McDougall, Otto Jelinek, Michael Wilson, Benoit Bouchard, Bernard Valcourt, and Don Mazankowski.

The decision of so many prominent Cabinet ministers not to run reflects a general assumption within the Conservative party that Campbell is the most likely to lead the party to re-election. A Maclean's/Compass survey conducted from March 1 to 4, of 450 delegates from the 1991 Conservative policy convention, revealed that Campbell was considered to have the best chances for electoral success by a very wide margin.

CONFLICTING NATIONAL OPINION POLL RESULTS

Recent opinion polls have suggested the Conservative party under Kim Campbell would challenge the Liberals in voter popularity and would stand an excellent chance of being re-elected. A Globe and Mail telephone survey of 1,439 voters, conducted by ComQuest from March 8 to 15, found that 45 percent of decided voters said they would vote for the Conservatives led by Campbell, compared with only 32 percent who would vote Liberal. The NDP received 9 percent, Reform 10 percent, and Bloc québécois 4 percent.

An Angus Reid/Southam News poll of 1,500 voters, from March 15 to 18, gave a Campbell-led Conservative party 43 percent support, with the Liberals trailing at 25 percent, the NDP at 11 percent, and Reform at 10 percent. In comparison, the Tories under Jean Charest garnered only 25 percent, compared with 35 percent for the Liberals and 15 percent for the NDP.

However, an Environics poll conducted between March 10 and 25 that involved in-house interviews with 1,988 voters showed the Liberals slightly ahead. According to Environics, the party standings are: Liberal 36 percent, Conservatives 33 percent, NDP 12 percent, Reform 9 percent, and Bloc québécois 9 percent.

It is noteworthy that the respondents in the polls were all specifically asked about their intentions in the event that Kim Campbell is chosen as prime minister and Conservative leader. When respondents were asked simply about their voting intentions without any reference to leadership, Conservative support was substantially lower. (See chart opposite.)