

*Speech from the Throne*

The concept of Confederation was a call to Canadians to occupy and develop half a continent. In terms of physical effort, it demanded constructive work of a magnitude and in the face of obstacles never before tackled anywhere in the world. In terms of intellectual endeavour, it required the revolutionary application of federal arrangements to a parliamentary system in a sparsely populated country of enormous area.

The path of Confederation has been beset with great difficulties—some natural, some inevitable and some of our own making. Succeeding generations of men and women, however, had the courage to overcome these difficulties and make possible the material and social progress we today enjoy. They had the conviction of their forefathers that a sense of basic unity alone would secure the preservation of both the individuality and the diversity which they cherished. They knew that, while Confederation could never be perfect, it was in the last analysis the mainstay of their various interests and that, while there would inevitably be occasional failures in the tolerance and understanding essential to our political system, a fundamental friendship between our people remained and could be relied upon. They knew, above all, that there was no difference of opinion so great, no misunderstanding so deep, that could prevent men of good will from repairing the particular in order to preserve the whole.

During the past one hundred years the world has changed beyond the recognition of anything within the experience of those who laid the foundations of Confederation. That our constitutional structure has endured and served so well the progress of our country is a measure of the basic soundness of its principles as well as the willingness of those concerned to adapt their application to changing needs and changing conditions.

It is in this spirit that the government has in recent years actively promoted the reform of detailed federal-provincial arrangements which, with the fundamental law, compose the constitutional structure of our country. Such reform includes improving procedures for federal-provincial consultation and coordination that are increasingly vital to the effective operation of modern government.

The government is aware of its unique responsibility to ensure that our fundamental law is readily adaptable to our changing social needs. It is also conscious that the advantages and disadvantages of the present constitutional structure are deeply intertwined. While orderly reform may well be the best way of preserving and strengthening our heritage, the most careful consideration must be given to what we do. Studies to obtain the best advice on this important matter are now underway with a view to subsequent consideration of the whole problem by Parliament.

It was possible to think, in 1867, of the public responsibility primarily in terms of state responsibility. The new challenges, which we must and will meet, require the involvement of the whole society and the efforts of all our people. In this time of fast-changing dimensions, the central concern of Canadian society must be the well-being of each individual, so that, regardless of his place or station at birth, he will have an equal chance to realize his full potential in the economic, social, political and cultural sense. A country is a home; it must be built and furnished for the good life of its people.

[Mr. Speaker.]

With our forefathers, the fight was against the immense odds of nature on our half of this continent. Today the main struggle is against social injustice, against cultural mediocrity, against spiritual stagnation and against all forms of intolerance.

During the first one hundred years of our Confederation we have been evolving, out of our bilingual and bicultural beginnings, an ideal of statehood that promises a new dimension of democracy: the dimension of social and cultural diversity within a political unity. Out of the two great cultural streams of our beginnings, we have evolved in Canada an independent statehood which has welcomed and been enriched by people of many other cultures. As we enter our second century of Confederation, we can take pride in a sense of purpose that, while taking account of our own national needs, also includes a unique capacity to contribute to the whole world community of man.

Today relations among industry, labour and governments at all levels are taking on a new significance. To maintain and improve Canada's economic strength it is necessary to exercise wisdom and restraint in our demands upon one another; to show a high degree of cooperation and a sense of responsibility in dealing with each other and with our respective institutions, including all levels of government.

The government is conducting a fundamental review of the many significant factors involved in the relationship between industry, labour and government. From this review, it will secure the best advice available in shaping new policies and determining the most effective day-to-day rôle for the federal government.

*Honourable Members of the Senate,*

*Members of the House of Commons,*

As our Centennial Session opens, more Canadians are employed than ever before in our history. To ensure that jobs keep pace with the labour force, the capacity, quality and productivity of Canadian manufacturing industries must be increased. The government will take further appropriate measures to promote an environment in which industries can develop in the broad interests of the country, and promote increasing employment opportunities.

The government will also take special measures in particular designated areas where human resources are not adequately utilized. While efforts by the government in this regard during recent years have met with a large measure of success, they are to be made even more effective. Parliament, therefore, will be invited to broaden the scope of the Area Development Incentive program and to provide increased funds for it. Continuing encouragement will be given to the work of the Atlantic Development Board in promoting industrial development in the Atlantic Region.

Our strong and dynamic economy has made possible a broad program of social security which is available to all Canadians. Social legislation in Canada has been advanced to a remarkable degree in recent years. This does not mean to imply that all our programs are complete. Improvements will be required, such as the amendment of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which Parliament will be invited to consider.