

the government will provide the way by continuing the regional planning and resource use studies which have been so helpful in recent years. With the security of knowing that the best advice possible has been obtained, resource use can be planned in the best interests of all.

This planning must extend to other matters than the use of our resources. It must extend to the future of our economy so that the capabilities of the people are utilized to the best possible extent. An example of the planned benefits which can assist an area can be found in the extension of assistance to truck haulers who bring feed grains into British Columbia. This has meant that the cattle rancher is no longer only a herdsman, but can now get the maximum from his herd. He can fatten his stock and prepare it for the marketplace.

In my riding there is unexcelled range land. The hills and valleys are excellent for raising animals. With the opportunities now available the feed lots will expand and Kamloops will become one of the important areas providing meat for Canadian tables. I hope that members will not misjudge me when I say that the sun-soaked Thompson valley, the wooded north Thompson and the upper reaches of the Fraser make the finest and best riding a member can have the honour to represent.

The people who live in this area are Canadians with all the virtues and defects that other Canadians share. We are no different from others, and we are first of all Canadians. Most are English speaking, at least that is their primary language in day to day life. However, when the Prime Minister spoke to them, partly in French, they cheered. Many of them have told me they intend to learn to speak French. They want to make their fellow Canadians from any part of Canada feel at home when they come to visit, and they want to feel at home in any part of Canada they visit.

These do not seem to be extravagant demands. In fact they seem small. If we can approach our problem of unity in this spirit, other problems can be solved. And they can be solved by the good will of the people, because the people insist that this is one country with two official languages. This country contains divers peoples, some of whom speak French, some of whom speak English and some who speak other languages. Some of them speak Cree and some speak Shuswap, but all are Canadians. I said that

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when the people heard their Prime Minister speak French they cheered. They cheered even though few understood what was being said; they cheered because his message came from the heart and they recognized this. With this spirit who could say we cannot solve our problems?

Among our problems are those which concern the Indian people. I am the first Indian to sit as a member in this house and I am conscious of my responsibilities. I recognize that the people of Kamloops-Cariboo did not send me here to represent only a segment of that population. I know I must strive on behalf of all my constituents. However, I have an obligation which I could not escape if I wished to, and that is my obligation to my fellow Indians. I am an Indian who is a member of parliament. I am not just the Indian people's member; but I must speak as well on their behalf.

Hon. members know that the situation of many Indian families is deplorable. We all know that in respect of income, standards of health and living conditions many Indian people are below that standard of acceptability in this country. They are isolated from their fellow Canadians and they are shut off from many aspects of Canadian life. I do not think that racial discrimination is a factor. In view of the honour the people of Kamloops-Cariboo have paid me how could I feel otherwise? It is just a cruel historical fact of life beyond the control of the Indian people. The efforts to bring them into the world of today and to their rightful place in Canada must continue.

I must pay tribute to the right hon. gentleman who sits on the opposite side of the house and who is responsible for extending the right to vote to my fellow Indians and myself. This was a recognition of a people who needed to be recognized and who needed the assurance that they were not forgotten.

I should like also to pay tribute to the former prime minister, Mr. Pearson. It was during his term of office that the Indian people began to move ahead as they had not moved ahead before. The former minister of Indian affairs, now the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) and the former prime minister did more to help the Indian people than has been done in any comparable period of Canadian history; and the Indian people responded. The last two prime ministers initiated many programs on behalf of the Indians. I know this work will continue and will become more effective in the years ahead.