

maturing to take place. A successful multicultural Canadian society must be a collective enterprise of all the minorities including those of British and French origins.

I have been talking about our multi-cultural society as it was and as it has become. But the collective enterprise is a continuing one. What is it going to become?

For the size of the Italian Community in Canada, it may be that the Community is not sufficiently represented in senior positions of Government. But, as I say, this is a dynamic and maturing society and these changes will come. Why not a Secretary of State for External Affairs of Italian origin? In fact, there are some -- I assure you -- not necessarily of Italian origin, who would favour this change right away -- who take the view that red-haired, mid-Western Canadians of Scottish origin are not suited to the job.

However, the question of where we are going is more profound. For Italian Canadians here today what will our multicultural society mean to your children, your grandchildren? No politician on my side of the House -- at least not for some time -- has had a crystal ball that good. Nevertheless, I think that the broad course we are taking is fairly clear. It is not to a homogeneous society nor is it to a system of minority communities keeping to themselves and co-existing within a federal state. Our society is continuing to develop a new and harder kind of freedom -- a freedom for diversity. It was a promise of our two founding groups to respect each other -- something that they have not always done but are increasingly doing -- that guarantees to all groups the freedom to be different. This is a goal well worth the effort, both for ourselves and for the example we will be setting for the world at large.

As you and I are shaping the new Canada, we are learning about Canada. This process of learning about Canada -- learning to be Canadian is never-ending whether you are a first or a second generation Canadian, (as I am) or a 12th generation Canadian. Although I was born in this country over half a century ago, I am still learning to be a Canadian. The chances are I shall not complete my education before I die.

So far as I can observe, the 22 million other inhabitants of this country are going through the same school. We are all learning to be Canadians whether we have recently immigrated from Italy or Scotland, whether we are the sons and daughters of immigrants or whether our ancestors came to New France or were United Empire Loyalists. And we are all teaching one another.

Canada will continue united and continue to be more than the sum of its parts as long as our varied elements keep our minds and our hearts open to this learning process, as long as we all see that it is within Canada's very special framework that we have our best chance for material and spiritual fulfillment.