

was not referring to Quebec, Ontario, the western provinces or the Atlantic provinces, but to Canada as a whole. He always understood the enormous potential of a united Canada.

We are now nearing the end of the century. From what I see across Canada, the next century will also be ours as long as Canada remains united. Only our federal system could give us that opportunity. Mr. Lévesque uses every chance he gets to attack our federal system. He likes to blacken the picture. It is a considerable challenge as Canada is the envy of the whole world. Consequently, he cannot do so without distorting the facts and he does that systematically. Mr. Lévesque is urging us to turn our backs on Canada, to give up that enormous wealth that is ours, that Canadian heritage, he would like to take away from us our Canadian citizenship as well as all the security, protection and pride it gives us.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, those who support the No side and those who support the Yes side know full well that separation can only lead to negative economic consequences. Knowing full well those consequences and those enormous sacrifices, many of my Quebec friends are going to vote Yes.

Why, Mr. Speaker, should English-speaking Quebecers not accept those same inevitable sacrifices? They have already accepted the Frenchification of Quebec society, often with enthusiasm, because they realize the advantages of speaking two languages, two among the most important in the world, and French probably the most beautiful, except maybe, Mr. Speaker, when I am speaking it. However, I do not apologize, I did not have the opportunity I am now giving my four daughters who are studying in French schools.

But why do they want to turn their backs not only on the Canadian territory but also on French-speaking Canadians living outside Quebec? And why, Mr. Speaker, do I and other Quebecers, including my friends sitting on the government benches, why do we reject the PQ option? Why, in face of the same circumstances, the same facts, do we believe in the future of a united and strong Canada? Because, Mr. Speaker, we feel at home everywhere in Canada, our English-speaking fellow citizens are welcome everywhere we have relatives across the country—in my case, my father in British Columbia and my mother-in-law in Nova Scotia.

The whole country belongs to us and we are very aware of that. I would like it to be the same with all my French-speaking friends. However, that is not so. They feel at home in Quebec, but there are still obstacles elsewhere. Unfortunately, there are still some prejudices. I think they are one of the main reasons why people will vote Yes. Yet, despite those prejudices, despite the criticisms voiced by our Commissioner of Official Languages, we have witnessed in Canada some profound changes in the last ten years. See what is happening in Quebec; a Frenchification of society and the acceptance of this phenomenon by the English community. Even outside Quebec, it is astonishing.

*The Address—Mr. Joe Reid*

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I like what I see across Canada as far as these changes of attitude and this acceptance of the Canadian reality are concerned, in other words the coexistence of two linguistic groups. Mr. Speaker, a rose by any other name is still a rose and it is not a new constitutional arrangement that is going to lead to a renewed federation but rather these progressive changes of attitude. These changes of attitude are well started and as the saying goes, all is well that ends well. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to consider that Canada's language glass is half full, not half empty, and I will fight with my colleagues to fill it.

● (2130)

[English]

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chair to please note that I am now standing in my place. May I begin, too, by congratulating Mr. Deputy Speaker on his appointment and by asking you to pass on to Madam Speaker my congratulations on her election to the distinguished office of Speaker of this House. I wish for her, as other colleagues in the House do, a long term marked with honour and distinction.

This is the second time in far too short a period of time that the people of St. Catharines have elected me to bring to this Parliament their concerns. I am grateful for that opportunity, and very honoured. I want to thank those constituents who made it possible, but also I would like to thank all the constituents in St. Catharines and assure them that, no matter what political persuasion they might be, as their member I am here to speak for St. Catharines.

While I do not wish to enunciate all those positive things which make St. Catharines such a great community, it is important to give some of the local background so that I might enunciate the real problems with which they are confronted. Nor do I intend tonight to reiterate the concerns put forward so well by so many of my colleagues in this House, as they concern themselves and worry about the Canada of tomorrow and the forces which tend to pull us apart. But I want to tell the people in this House and the people of Canada that the community of St. Catharines and of old Niagara are as chauvinistic in their Canadianism as they are anywhere else in this country.

In many ways my constituency is a favoured one. Situated in the banana belt of the Niagara Peninsula and surrounded as it is by vineyards and fruitlands, it is known as the "Garden City". With a delightful climate and more parkland than any other community of its equivalent size, indeed it is a beautiful place in which to live. As a consequence many of our senior persons tend to come to our home area and there take up their residence. Not surprisingly, the *Financial Post* in a very recent edition showed that St. Catharines citizens are second only to Victoria in their satisfaction of their city, in all of Canada. This satisfaction stems not only from the abundance of parkland, but it is an active integrated community rich in cultural activities. At this time I would have to say that our Folk Arts Council, comprised of some 33 groups of different national backgrounds, represents the cosmopolitan mix which we have