

*[Translation]*

To my French-speaking compatriots, I must say how proud I am of the steps they have taken in the last few years with a view to a greater participation in the economy and progress of Canada. They are proud of their cultural heritage. They want their culture to improve in all fields. They feel that the efforts they have made for a more general education, for higher, technical and specialized education are continuing; that is a vital investment. They want, and rightly so, to direct their own culture and to have complete autonomy in this field; besides, they have an absolute right to that. This is what has enabled French-speaking Canadians, in the last few years, to play, at least in an important part of Canada, an unquestionably greater role than they ever had. If we compare the Province of Quebec today with what it was even less than ten years ago, we are surprised at its tremendous economic and cultural progress and at the increasing respect which it has won through these attitudes from non-French-speaking Canadians.

Let us hope that English-speaking Canadians and French-speaking Canadians have more frequent contacts and that these result in feelings of increased mutual dignity and respect. I remain convinced that if so much progress has been accomplished in the

space of a few years, a deeper and more complete knowledge of one another and co-operation in all fields will bring for us all, and especially for the whole of our country, the economic and cultural progress which, accompanied by an atmosphere of respect and dignity, will lead all Canadians whatever their languages to feel at home in each and every part of Canada.

Canada cannot expect such economic developments without the co-operation of one with the other and without an economic stability which will encourage foreigners to invest in our country the capital that we need and are obliged to get elsewhere. A Canadian unity which will respect the dignity and pride of both our great cultures is essential to the prosperity of Canada and each of its regions.

Let us hope that our politicians and our businessmen, our economists and our scientists, will succeed in creating such a climate in Canada, so that the second centennial of Confederation can bring to the two cultures all the advantages which Canada has to offer and which unity, stability and mutual respect cannot fail to provide to our country.

*[Text]*

On motion of Hon. Mr. Fournier (Mada-waska-Restigouche), debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, February 1, at 8 p.m.

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