

*National Unity*

anism allowing all regions as such to put forward their views and their aspirations.

The third point the conference should consider is the constitutional review. That study should deal first with patriation of the constitution. It is urgent, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians have a constitution which belongs to them. A modern country like Canada can no longer tolerate that the main text of its constitutional documents should be abroad. We must patriate the constitution forthwith, find an amending formula, add to it provisions recognizing the equality of the French language and culture and the English language and culture.

In the area of constitutional review the conference will have to study the existing provisions, clarify the grey areas as much as possible while at the same time avoiding the trap of decentralization. Decentralization is not, in spite of what some say, the cure-all to the breaking apart of Canada. On the contrary, to keep this country united, the central government must have enough powers to act on the economy, it must have enough powers to distribute wealth in this country. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the conference will have to consider and suggest to Parliament a mechanism that would allow all Canadians to have a say on the recommendations in their report that Parliament would keep in the area of political institutions and the constitution. That mechanism of a constitutional conference might seem cumbersome and the subject of their study, utopian. However, the present state of the crisis should motivate the people who will make it up to do whatever is necessary to achieve such an objective in a relatively short period of time.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my faith in this country, say that the many examples of tolerance and generosity that can be seen every day are a guarantee that the basic attitude of Anglophones vis-à-vis Francophones is going to change. It is that change in attitude which is going to save Canada. It is the tangible manifestation of that equality which is going to save this country. It is not through fear of economic problems that Quebecers will remain Canadians, but when they have proof that they are first class citizens of this country, when they are given institutions and a constitutional statute that will define them and give them a sense of belonging. I wish this were the objective of every member in this House.

● (2040)

[English]

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, in approaching this debate of such great national significance this afternoon and this evening, I suppose few of us remain immune from the thrust of our own respective ridings.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I represent in this House the constituency of Brome-Missisquoi. I would first recognize that because of our historical, sociological, etc., revolution, we have what I have always called a true spirit of national unity. As I said many times, our area is 80 per cent Francophone and 20 per cent Anglophone, and there is to be found a true spirit of unity. As everyone knows, Brome-Missisquoi is located in the Eastern Townships. In the past, the Eastern Townships gave the

[Mr. Bussiès.]

Canadian people and Canada a great prime minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent.

Mr. Speaker, I will indicate quite frankly, tonight in this House that I myself voted twice for that true Eastern Townships gentleman.

[English]

I repeat—

**An hon. Member:** Welcome back.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Not today, I am afraid, not today. I voted for the late Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, once the prime minister of my country, twice. He typified the part of the world I come from where, because of our historical and sociological evolution, French speaking and English speaking Canadians live side by side in national unity. I find it hard to talk too much about it in the House tonight. We do not talk much about differences between French speaking and English speaking Canadians or national unity in my part of the world because we live it. It is deeply felt and deeply lived in our aspirations for Canada.

● (2050)

[Translation]

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Mr. St. Laurent spoke French with his father and English with his mother.

[English]

We know the origins of Louis St. Laurent and that he spoke to his mother in English and to his father in French. What would he do today? He would take René Levesque and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) into the woodshed and give them a damned good licking. That is what he would do.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we have in our great and young country two official languages and many cultures, as has been suggested many times in this House.

[English]

When I first came to this House of Commons, Mr. Speaker—perhaps too many years ago in many ways—the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) as Prime Minister helped bring those whose ancestors came neither from the United Kingdom nor France, into the mainstream of Canadian life. Once again, whether we like it or not, because of the actions of this government, those people feel that their legitimate aspirations in the mainstream of Canadian life are continually ignored.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the great speeches made in the House of Commons, the great speeches of statesmen like the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) that's all very well—

[English]

I know that in debates like this one tonight it is not good to dig up history, but I am going to lay a few facts on the table. It