

*Government Orders*

Nothing is as Canadian as compromise. It is truly what makes us that kinder, gentler nation. Let us not underestimate its value and let us not overlook some of the other means of conflict resolution in the world around us.

We are talking about the difference in international terms between co-operation and confrontation, handshakes and hand grenades, ballots and bullets. One hundred and twenty-five years of compromise and peace look pretty good to this Canadian.

There are many things that my party and I would have liked to have seen different in this constitutional process. We advocated a constituent assembly, but I would have to say that this process is a major improvement over former constitutional processes.

Aboriginal people were included. The territories were included. I believe it is fair to say that this new dynamic created by the inclusion of territorial leaders, by new premiers, by aboriginal people, was instrumental in the attainment of this agreement. It proves there is a place for every Canadian and every Canadian has a contribution to make to this very serious issue of the future of our country.

I would like to speak briefly about some of the achievements we see in this accord. Let me begin with Quebec and the progress realized in the relationship between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

[*Translation*]

In this accord, the distinct identity of Quebec society is at last given formal recognition. That in itself is a great victory, but in addition to this recognition, Quebec is also being given the instruments it needs to maintain and reinforce that distinct identity. This is crucial for the future of the people of Quebec.

A guaranteed 25 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons demonstrates the role played by Quebec in Canada. It demonstrates Quebec's role as a founding nation and full-fledged partner.

I have no doubt there will still be some tensions between Quebec and the rest of Canada, the other regions of this country. Any relationship, any friendship that is worth having experiences this kind of tension. There will always be people outside Quebec who will say that Quebec is treated differently. There will always be people in Quebec who say they will want no part of Canada.

Too often, there is a tendency to notice only this type of attitude. For instance, we tend to ignore the deep attachment that unites people from Quebec and from the rest of Canada. We witnessed it in the "My Canada includes Quebec", campaign launched by real people, and I mean ordinary citizens. This campaign spread throughout the country and saw thousands of volunteers make those who wanted to say yes to Quebec sign petitions.

[*English*]

In Quebec there was a recent poll in the magazine *l'Actualité* which received little attention in the rest of Canada but should perhaps be brought to the attention of those who did not see it. The poll revealed, in the words of the magazine, "a profound attachment of Quebecers to Canada". Seventy-one per cent of Quebecers affirmed that being Canadian was a part of their identity. A majority said that they would be willing to make a personal sacrifice that brought nothing to Quebec but which rendered an important service to Canada. There was a strong attachment to Canadian symbols and geography.

That poll confirms something I believe and that is that there is a growing feeling you can be a Quebecois and Canadian at the same time, you can be part of both Quebec and Canada, belong in both Quebec and Canada, care about both Quebec and Canada.

To those politicians who say that Quebecers have to choose between Quebec and Canada, I say as an English Canadian: You are wrong. I say as the leader of a federal party: You are wrong. You can be a welcome part of Canada, a valued part of Canada, a part of Canada that helps make Canada the country we love and respect.

The other major contribution of this accord is that there are other relationships in Canada which are recognized as fundamental to our national character and national unity. I have often said that the circle of Confederation will not be complete until the rights of aboriginal people have been addressed. The recognition of the inherent right of aboriginal self-government in this agreement is an historical step forward in this country.

I have the great privilege of representing the Yukon Territory where First Nations people make up a large percentage of the population. In the over a decade I have worked with aboriginal people I have come to under-