

much agitated by the continual tug of war between the federal level and the provincial level.

Second, Canadians are ready, willing and able to face the reality of our problems. They want, indeed they demand that we people in public office, whether municipal, provincial or federal, and that business and labour stop this stupid fighting that we get ourselves into, this tug of war for turf, and that we settle down to some very serious problem solving.

Third, they know very well that they together have created one of the most prosperous, peaceful, tolerant and stable nations in the entire world. We did this in spite of a very harsh climate, with an incredibly small, diverse population spread over 8,000 kilometres. They also know from talking to other people that others around the world see us as being an absolutely first rate model on which to base their own societies as they try to balance the cultural, historic, ethnic, and religious differences.

Fourth, they understand very well that as the world becomes more integrated and competitive we must speak with one clear voice or we will be lost among that host of small ineffectual nations in the world.

Fifth, they understand that Canada depends upon world trade more than almost any other industrialized nation. I have since learned from other reading that we are second to Germany in that respect, and that if we split up we will have no meaningful voice to promote sensible international rules and dispute resolution mechanisms.

They understand very well the law of the jungle and they do not want to have any part of it.

In the time remaining, I would like to read into our *Hansard* certain parts of an address given at the annual Royal Bank shareholders meeting by Mr. Allan R. Taylor, its chairman and CEO. His address is entitled "March of Folly" in recognition of the eminent U.S. Historian, Barbara Tuchman.

On page 2 he states:

Marches of folly are made possible by the existence of dangerous delusions. It is the delusion that a national break-up would involve only minimal costs that risks sending Canada down this road of irreversible folly.

And on page 3 he continues:

The Constitution

Most lethal of all is the assumption that the departure of Quebec would resolve our difficulties. That it would solve the challenges facing Canada; that it would solve the problems of Quebec; that it would solve the problems of west; that it would redress the wrongs done to our First People.

This is only one of the dangerous delusions that beckon Canadians down the march of historic folly.

What Canadians should be asking themselves first and very explicitly, is whether disunity is the answer to the challenges we face.

Do we really need to blow Canada apart to meet Quebec's historic concerns? Quebec is a unique cultural island of 6 million French-speaking people in an ocean of 270 million people working and living in English. Quebec is a distinct society. Do we really need to destroy Canada to recognize and protect that reality? I say no.

Do we really need to blow Canada apart to understand and address a deep alienation in the west where many people believe that our national institutions are dominated by a deaf and unfeeling eastern majority? Do we really need to destroy Canada to recognize and correct that concern? I say no.

Do we really need to blow Canada apart to meet the deep-felt concerns of people in Atlantic Canada? Do we have to destroy Canada to solve their very real structural economic problems? I say no.

Do we really need to blow Canada apart to give the First Nations the powers to participate directly in determining their own destiny within Canada, rights they have been denied for too long? Again, I say no.

Do we really need to blow Canada apart to address the vital need for greater harmonization of federal and provincial policies and cutting the wasteful duplication of costs?

That separation would be relatively easy and without cost is not just a dangerous delusion; it is a real world impossibility.

It is my estimation that, the costs of a break-up would be huge and long-term and paid by everyone in Canada, here in Quebec and in every other province and territory. No one would escape lightly; no one would fair well.

I could go on for many minutes on this, but I think just in closing I would say, again from Mr. Taylor, and I quote:

In this anniversary year we should be celebrating our achievements. Canada which has so much promise is 125 years old. Montreal, a living example of how people of different cultures can live together in peace is 350 years old.

Canada's accomplishments are widely recognized, at least by others.

I point to the report of the UN Development Program and it rates countries in terms of economic prosperity, longevity, living standards, gender equality, racial equality, distribution of income and human freedom.

In 1991 Canada ranked second from the top in the whole world on this global scale of the quality of life. That is what is threatened by separation.

That is what we stand to lose by separation.