

is no better evidence of the presence in our country of a spirit of true understanding between the two great races, because it seems to me that when one racial group learns to speak the language of the other, national unity is thereby strengthened. Relations between Anglo-Canadians and French Canadians are closer today than they have been at any other time in our history.

A few months ago, the public school board of Oakville, in Ontario, announced that beginning with September next, French would be taught in Grade 8 in all the schools coming under its jurisdiction.

Regarding that decision, Mr. J. Bascom St. John wrote, in the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto, that the reversal of attitude on the part of Anglo-Canadians towards the French language was—

—one of the most striking phenomena of the post-war period.

He added that such a proposal would formerly have been greeted with violent opposition but that this is no longer so. Such a change testifies to the national unity we have achieved.

(Text):

Honourable senators, may I now continue my remarks in English by offering my sincere congratulations to my colleagues the mover and the seconder of the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I have, of course, not had the opportunity of being present in this chamber during previous debates on the Address, but judging from the generous response to these speeches I must conclude that they were in the highest tradition of this chamber.

Next, may I extend my compliments to the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate as he continues to occupy with dignity and authority the high office to which he was appointed in the last Parliament. Needless to say, these compliments apply in full measure to you, sir, also, as Acting Speaker.

May I now congratulate one newly appointed in this Parliament namely the Honourable the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine). We few, we band of brothers, look forward to his leadership, and I would be less than perceptive if I did not notice the popularity of his appointment on both sides of this house. May I include in this tribute my felicitations to the Deputy Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Brunt).

I would like also, if I may, to express my appreciation of the moderate and statesman-like attitude taken by the honourable the

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Macdonald). I, as a new senator, must say that he has created a most favourable impression.

I have known many honourable senators for over 40 years, and I am happy to become again closely associated with them. Some 35 years ago the Honourable John Connolly and I were sitting alongside each other on the benches of the University of Ottawa, and I never thought then that some day we would both be sitting together in the Senate, he representing Ottawa West, and I, Ottawa East.

Exactly 23 years ago this month the Honourable Senator Joseph Bradette, who was then Member of Parliament for Cochrane, gave the bride away at my wedding. He was recalling that fact to a group of honourable senators a few days ago, when one honourable gentleman remarked: "That is the trouble with Senator Bradette: he has given too many brides away! He should have kept at least one for himself!"

Another gentleman with whom I am happy to become more closely associated is that great journalist who has recently published in one of our local newspapers short biographies of all the Prime Ministers of Canada and all the Opposition leaders he has known personally during his distinguished career biographies which, I hope, will be published soon in book form for the enlightenment of all Canadians. I refer to the Honourable Senator Charles Bishop, who has been my next-door neighbour for the past 15 years.

We are all aware of how much we have to learn from our native Canadians, the Indians, who are so well represented here by our colleague, Senator Gladstone. The senator was appointed to the Senate at approximately the same time as I was and he occupies a room a few doors away from mine. But it was he who convinced me that, in the course of time, the Indians had learned at least something from the white man. This is the story as he told it to me. A gentleman from New York who had never before left Manhattan Island was always interested in the lore of the Indians, from whom, indeed, the island was originally purchased. So he came to northern Canada to improve his education in this regard. While here, he was fortunate enough to meet an Indian Chief. He asked the Chief, "Is it going to be a cold winter in Canada?" The Chief replied: "Heap cold." With wide eyes, the New Yorker asked the Chief, "How do you know?" The Chief replied: "White man's wood piles high." It is recorded that the New Yorker returned to Manhattan Island and has not left since.