

*The Address—Mr. Caouette*

speak our language, they are eager to welcome us, to hear our problems, to learn to know us, to know what we want and who we are. It was most interesting to meet these people, irrespective of political affiliations, as Canadians from a province other than theirs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we certainly agree that there are fanatics in those provinces. As a matter of fact, we have some in Quebec too. And it is precisely those fanatics who jeopardize Canadian unity because they adopt a definite position and will not listen to reason. They think they live in a different kind of world than the one in which we live at the present time. Instead of seeing the human being in mankind, they see only their own sect and they believe that their own sect has every right, while all the others are completely wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I maintain that the Canadian confederation has enabled the two main ethnic groups of Canada, the Ukrainians, the Poles, the Italians, the French, the Germans, in short, everybody, to develop according to their own aspirations, inasmuch as financial system made it possible. Both parties or elements, the two main ethnic groups of Canada, are suffering from the evils of the same system which is leading them to dissension, misunderstanding and even hate of each other.

Mr. Speaker, I often repeat what John Adams, President of the U.S.A. from 1825 to 1829, said more than 125 years ago and I quote:

The difficulties, the confusion and the anguish of the United States are due less to the weaknesses of their constitution or their confederation, a lack of honour or virtue, than to sheer ignorance of the nature of currency, credit and money circulation.

Mr. Speaker, one could apply the same statement to Canada, today in this centennial of our confederation, when there is confusion and worry in some parts of the country. People do not understand confederation, they do not know the Canadian constitution, yet, they denounce that pact, that confederation and that constitution without having considered the pros and cons of the system.

Mr. Speaker, we could now apply to Canada the words of President John Adams who said: The difficulties, the confusion and the anguish of Canada, in 1967, are due less to the weaknesses of its constitution, of confederation, a lack of honour or virtue, than to sheer ignorance of the nature of currency, credit and money circulation.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments moved during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne deal precisely with matters concerning confederation and the constitution.

The main amendment read as follows:

This house regrets that Her Majesty's advisers have failed to submit any program to give effective direction with regard to Canada's constitutional development in this centennial year and has failed to provide for the calling of a national constitutional conference—

Imagine the benefit the Canadian people will derive from this, Mr. Speaker.

—to be widely representative of the governments, federal and provincial and of the territories, and of all political parties for the purpose of repatriating Canada's constitution—

Mr. Speaker, this motion was moved by the Conservatives, and see how many of them are in their seats. Not a single one. There is one who is coming in because he heard me. That shows how serious is the amendment for repatriating the constitution. The hon. member is here doubtless to repatriate the Canadian constitution.

• (12:50 p.m.)

But, Mr. Speaker, what is repatriating Canada's constitution going to give us? It is not even respected and there is talk of repatriating it. People are not familiar with it and yet speak of repatriating it. It is not being studied and yet there is talk of repatriating it. For five years now we hear on all sides: repatriate Canada's constitution. Let us get those sheets of paper in London and bring them to Canada. What is it going to give us if it cannot be respected? If the Conservatives and the Liberals in Canada had only started by respecting the constitution such as it is, we would not witness today such anxiety and confusion with regard to the Canadian confederation.

The amendment goes on:

—revising and amending it as agreed upon.

Mr. Speaker, what has been agreed upon for amending or modifying the constitution, so that Canada's future policy might be aimed towards the interests of the people as a whole, through a declaration of national objectives based on the assurance of success so selflessly and patriotically displayed by the fathers of confederation.

Merely from a literary or logical point of view, Mr. Speaker, something is askew here. Based on the assurance of success. There was