

**Mr. Blackburn:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank my colleagues for giving me this opportunity. I have one brief question. A few moments ago the minister referred to the fact that Canada did not belong to any major trading bloc in the world. He made reference to the European Economic Community, to the new ASEAN community, and so on. I should like to ask the minister whether he thinks, in his own judgment, it would be to our economic, financial and material benefit to enter into a customs union or economic union with the United States.

● (1432)

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think that in one minute I could answer that very big question. However, I think the short answer is no. On the other hand, I emphasize what I said earlier, namely, that we can achieve much better access for our products in the United States through these multilateral tariff negotiations. The alternative to that is to see the tariff become less and less significant for the large manufacturer with the long-run production line in the United States who may very well be able to leap over the tariff barriers and, therefore, would have no disposition to establish here in Canada. That is quite an inadequate answer to a very big question which at some point I hope we can discuss in detail in this House. I am opposed to it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I want with my colleagues to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and before I begin my speech I want this afternoon to pay tribute to one of my greatest friends in Canadian politics who died Saturday morning, Gaétan Mireault of Sutton, Quebec. Wounded during World War II, he was sergeant-major of Paul Sauvé's regiment, who became premier of my province, and he was my organizer-in-chief for eight elections. He was a great Canadian, a great soldier during World War II, a great soldier in peace time for his country. I want to pay tribute to my great friend, a great Canadian who has among his friends several Liberals.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, before I get into my actual speech, I think everyone in this House, be he Liberal, Progressive Conservative, Social Credit or New Democrat, does not have a chance to pay tribute to those foot soldiers at the grassroots level who make it possible for us to be here. I know all 260-odd of us have foot soldiers back in our constituencies who do the hard, day to day work in the political game and get very little credit for it.

On Saturday, my organizer-in-chief, Gaétan Mireault, of Sutton, died at the age of 58. He was Paul Sauvé's regimental sergeant-major during the Second World War. As I said a few moments ago in the other official language, he counted many good Liberals among his friends. He thought the political process was very, very important, so he fought for the party of his choice and for his country in peacetime, as he was a great soldier in wartime. Far too often we do not talk in this House

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about our foot soldiers and our friends at the grass roots level. I should like to pause very briefly and pay tribute to my greatest friend in politics who fought side by side with me for eight federal elections. I should like to bring the attention of the House to this fact.

[Translation]

I was in complete agreement with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson) when he said earlier that the matters of the Canadian economy could not be separate from the matters relating, say, to the constitution and national unity. Even now we are faced with important questions related *inter alia* to the Canadian economy. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that he is greatly involved among other things in the issue of national unity and the constitution—what I call the third option for today's Canada. This afternoon I want to discuss briefly what I have been saying for nearly 12 years inside and outside this House, and that is the need for us Canadians to write a modern constitution for modern times.

As I have often noted both here and outside the House, I am firmly convinced that it is time to prepare a modern constitution adapted to the needs of modern time, a constitution written in Canada, by Canadians and for Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the development of this constitution could be done over two years. The first year, the federal government would establish a parliamentary committee on constitution with representatives of all parties. The provincial governments would do the same. Mr. Speaker, during the year, meetings could be held between the federal committee and each provincial committee. The second year, a federal-provincial commission including representatives of all political parties in the House of Commons and the provincial legislative assemblies would develop a new constitution.

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that this will not be easy. We will need extraordinary perception and political sense, a lot of courage, of imagination, hard work and the will to preserve Canadian unity. To ensure prosperity in Canada and unity of the country, we must make every effort to find an acceptable compromise between status quo and separatism. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting challenge which should stimulate us. It is no longer possible to have political confrontations to obtain short-term gains. Canada is more important than a political party, whatever it may be.

**An hon. Member:** Separatist!

**Mr. Grafftey:** That is not very bright. I thought you were more intelligent. You are perhaps a bit tired this afternoon. You say that I am for separatism. Are you making a statement or asking me a question?

[English]

In discussing the need for the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to form an all-party constitutional committee of this House made up in proportion to party representation in the House, the Prime Minister must let the elected representatives of the people in on the constitutional debate. After all, the Fathers of Confederation were all elected public officials,