

*The Address—Mr. Frith*

**Mr. Frith:** But I would like to have a message go forth in this country that not all of Ontario is representative of the Penetanguishene problem. Not without our own problems, we have introduced in Sudbury the Canadian concept of federalism. It has been a great success, with large numbers of parents of all ethnic backgrounds schooling their children in the French immersion program of our educational systems. With this background, perhaps I feel with more intensity than others the importance of the impending referendum in Quebec.

Often one hears many ethnic Canadians say, "I am a Canadian first". Well, I too am a Canadian first, but I am a worried Canadian, worried about the wording of the referendum, worried about its outcome, and worried about the complacency I feel exists outside Quebec with regard to the importance of the referendum.

One of the advantages of being elected to the Commons is to meet members of Parliament from various regions of our country and to come to learn from our differences, as well as to cherish our common ground. In recent weeks I have met several of my colleagues in the Quebec caucus. I asked one of them what role he would play in the referendum in his province, and he replied that he was darned if he would defend national unity in Quebec. To be frank, Madam Speaker, he did not put it that politely and I was beginning to wish I had never asked the question. He went on to add that he would be delighted to build national unity in Quebec. Such a similarity in words, and yet poles apart in philosophy! I was very happy to hear a member of the Quebec caucus put it that way, that rather than defending national unity he will work as hard as he can to build it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Frith:** I would urge all members of the House, regardless of political affiliation, to make themselves available and to become involved in that crucial vote in the province of Quebec, to prove to the people of Quebec that there is a choice other than René Lévesque's and the Parti Québécois' idea of a French-speaking Quebec and an English-speaking Canada.

The choice is as follows. Here let me quote the final two paragraphs of an article entitled "The Canadian Journey", which read as follows:

There is a more promising choice. A country's political framework and values are not something to be knocked down this Monday and built anew by next Friday. They are most like a garden, to be nurtured in harmony with the landscape. The Canadian landscape began to shift two decades ago and now the season has come for change.

It should begin with recognition that the existence of two great language communities and many regional and cultural realities, which we so often insist are problems that cripple us, are in fact opportunities that can enrich and free us. For "they" in the end is all of us.

Let us not forget it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Frith:** I, therefore, take pleasure in seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** I propose, Madam Speaker, that the debate be now adjourned.

**Madam Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**Madam Speaker:** The House has heard the motion moved by the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Madam Speaker:** The motion is adopted. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order.

The House adjourned at 2.46 p.m.