

In conclusion, I must reiterate that our defence problems cannot be viewed in isolation. We must be ready to play our part in any measure of collective defence which may be organized under the authority of the united nations, and we must maintain our machinery for collaboration in the defence of the British commonwealth.

The drastic reductions in the operational and training units, rather than in the overhead and administrative services, where they could have been made to advantage, cause grave concern as to the ability of our fighting services to fulfil those functions under the present policy of this government.

Mr. MAURICE HARTT (Cartier) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that a member who has been elected in one of the constituencies of the province of Quebec should utter in the French language his first words in this House of Commons. I am glad to note, Mr. Speaker, that we have reached a stage where it is not necessary to apologize for using the French language in this house. If I take the liberty or indulge in the luxury of addressing you—

(Text):

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I don't know what he says.

Mr. HARTT: If I were you I would be ashamed to admit it.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): One thing I thank God for: I am not you.

An hon. MEMBER: You could do worse.

Mr. HARTT: I would not change with my hon. friend—and he has nothing to offer, I assure him, for the exchange.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Carry on; don't be stupid.

Mr. HARTT: My hon. friend was so good as to admit his ignorance; I am glad he appreciates it.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, I expected to be interrupted and to hear acknowledgments of ignorance. That does not upset me in the least. I wish to pay a tribute to the French Canadians and tell them how deeply I respect their group, which has contributed so much to the formation and development of our great country, Canada. If I make bold to utter these few words in French, it is with the purpose of rebuking those who harbour prejudice and because I wish to say that Providence has blessed Canada. If our friends were willing to show more tolerance and admit that the French Canadians have been the pioneers

[Mr. Parkes.]

of this country, that they have greatly contributed to her development and have every right to what they claim, I believe that overnight the future of Canada would become greater and that we would thank God for having achieved so much progress. Mr. Speaker, I invite all hon. members of this house to visit the province of Quebec, the most liberal, hospitable and generous of all provinces, and the one which has done the most to ensure the future of Canada.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, I regret beyond words that at this stage of our development we still have to translate speeches in this Dominion of Canada; and I sincerely regret that some of our hon. friends, who state boastfully that they do not understand, do not seem to appreciate the disservice they are doing this country.

I said a few words in French. I am sure every hon. member in the house is as keenly interested as I am in seeing today and tomorrow a greater and a more glorious Canada. We can see it; we can build it; we can edify this as an example to the world, if we but agree to be a little more tolerant, a little more understanding, and to lead a life of give and take.

I do not have to plead for the French-Canadian: history speaks for itself. His accomplishment as a pioneer in this country, his contributions culturally, literally and otherwise should be sufficient. Every man of good will should be happy to recognize and to appreciate the rights of this large segment of our citizens—our compatriots, if you like—so that we may build a better and greater Canada.

I am grateful to the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Thatcher), who, I regret, is not at the moment in his seat. I applaud his splendid effort to say a few words in French. If hon. members only knew how much this effort was appreciated by the biggest ethnic group in Canada—the French-speaking people—they would all make a little effort to help promote that national unity, that unity of understanding and of purpose.

I also wish to thank the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Benidickson), who is not at the moment in his seat, but who spoke beautifully in French. Let me say to him that any time he wishes he may come to Quebec, select a constituency, and be elected by acclamation.

Let me be frank, Mr. Speaker, when I say that I had not intended to speak in the budget debate. With the modesty with which