

associates at the same table and to initiate an intelligent dialogue, free from any narrowness of mind, bearing on opportunities which the future has in store rather than on mistakes or blunders of the past, a great step ahead will be taken.

If we accept the principle that the provincial governments and the Federal Government are not enemies but associates responsible for the same enterprise — the Canadian enterprise — we should not, either we from the Federal Government or the representatives of the provinces, enter that conference saying to ourselves that at the end of the negotiations there will be a victor and others vanquished, or winners and a loser.

#### CO-OPERATIVE FEDERALISM

We have entered this epoch of co-operative federalism where the compromise which we reach is neither victory nor defeat of the provinces, or of the Federal Government. We often give the word "compromise" a depreciatory meaning which it does not deserve. Compromise is nothing but the meeting point of the thoughts of two intelligent human beings....

I do hope that the conference called in Ottawa this month will take place, like the preceding one, in an atmosphere of confidence and relaxation. If each government continues to understand that a compromise is not a dishonourable solution, this next conference will mark our entrance into a new era. In this connection I believe it is essential to establish the system of federal-provincial conferences on a permanent basis and to institute, in this way, a direct and constant mode of communication between Ottawa and the provinces. It is not normal that the governments under a confederative system should feel that they can meet or engage in a dialogue only through the newspapers and other information media.

#### A CHALLENGE AND A WAGER

Thus will be established structures which will be flexible enough to ensure that, simultaneously and on their respective planes, the provinces and Ottawa may fulfil each their own responsibilities without its being at the expense of the Canadian taxpayers. The finding of a solution to the problems of taxation of the provinces and of Canada as a whole is evidently a challenge, but it is a challenge that Ottawa is prepared to accept, it is a wager it is anxious to win, with the co-operation of the provincial governments. We shall have to find a constitutional mechanism that will prevent frictions, or even clashes, in those fields where the right of intervention of the Federal Government or of a province is not determined with precision.

At a time when we are going through a national crisis from which we must at all costs come out without loss and even with gain, English Canadians and French Canadians alike must fear the bad shepherd and distrust the false prophet. It is no time to drop the substance for the shadow. One cannot repeat it too much: if it came true, the so-called independence would only bring very soon other disappointment and greater servitude....

It would be an error for the rest of Canada to ignore the fact that deep changes and even certain upheavals are taking place in Quebec. There is no

doubt, however, that changes which may not be as spectacular but which are, nevertheless, important are taking place in the provinces with an English-speaking majority. All are becoming increasingly conscious of their own entity and of their particular needs. These are indications which make me hope that Confederation will not go to pieces.

As far as French Canadians are concerned, I like to recall that thought which André Laurendeau, the co-president of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, expressed so well...: "We are a minority and this is an uncomfortable position; we shall remain so in North America, so we may as well accept the fact. We are not great by our numbers; we should become great by our excellence. They say that it is asking a whole nation to become heroic; but no, it is just asking men in a difficult situation, which they have not chosen, to raise themselves a little above themselves"....

Ottawa will never hinder the economic surge of the provinces. Quebec does not need secession to take hold and dispose of its wealth. The nationalization of electricity is a proof thereof.

We should assert ourselves in all fields, including that of business! In the Department which I have the honour of heading, I see every day files about immigrants who landed here after the war, wearing worn-out suits and down-at-heel shoes, who, since then, have built prosperous enterprises, created new industries and often acquire great fortunes. Why can't we, French Canadians, do the same? As regards our participation in government life in Ottawa, let us do away with any inferiority complex. Why couldn't the new political force let loose in Quebec be made useful in Ottawa? We have no financial means, you say? We do not have the required "connections"? A lack of capital is not an obstacle to success. Courage, audacity, perseverance, persistence, in a word what is called "talent", is often worth more than capital not supported by such qualifications.

We are not living in the Canada we dreamed about; let us work to bequeath to our children this Canada of our dreams and our hopes....

#### CANADIAN OECD DELEGATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, will represent Canada at a meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, November 19 and 20. Mr. Martin will be accompanied by senior officials of the Departments of External Affairs, Finance and Trade and Commerce and of the External Aid Office. The Canadian delegation will also include the Canadian Permanent Representative to the OECD, Mr. J.C. Langley, who is stationed in Paris.

This will be the third annual ministerial meeting of the OECD. The chairman will be Mr. Halvard Lange of Norway. Ministers from the 20 member countries will discuss two major themes — economic growth and development in countries of the OECD area and international economic questions of concern to member countries.

A special OECD ministerial meeting on problems of international co-operation in science was held in October, at which the Minister of Industry, Mr. C.M. Drury, represented Canada.