

model of this generation which has achieved maturity, is eager for justice, proud of its mother tongue and open to the world. Quebec is part and parcel of the future of Canada. About to deal with the essential topic of reconciliation between Canada and Quebec, I should like to quote again the Prime Minister who stated in this House exactly one week ago: "Federal-provincial relations are very important. In my judgment, they are the laboratory of a federal state within which great things can happen. Anyone who tells you that he can run this country by issuing directives from 24 Sussex Drive has a very poor understanding of Canada. The easy way is to issue directives. The tough way is to listen to and understand the regions and to respect their point of view." Mr. Speaker, these words are those of a true statesman. They express a lesson of history, namely, that conflicts can only be resolved through confrontation or through co-operation. Between Canada and Quebec, the years before 1984 were those of confrontation. I will not go over that history again, but we all know it, and I was personally involved in it. I will note however that many political careers here in Ottawa have been built on the exploitation of confrontation.

Ever since the Progressive Conservative Party came to power, the Quebec-Canada constitutional issue has progressed more rapidly than over the previous 15 years. That is because this government has chosen the way of co-operation. It is a difficult way which does not foster enthusiasm easily, but it is the only way. Quebecers indeed expressed their will to remain in Canada during the 1980 referendum, but not at any cost. That is what the Liberal Party of Canada has failed to understand. Quebecers will not let anybody impose on them what they refuse. They are proud of their roots. The generation which has come to power and to which I referred a while ago is a generation of serene, lucid men and women who will negotiate hard. It is a generation which rejects the state as a provider of goods, but accepts it as the guardian of liberties; a generation which will not allow the Canadian and Quebec governments to settle this issue in any other way than "honourably and enthusiastically", to quote Brian Mulroney.

The ways of co-operation are not the ways of abandonment but those of intelligence. Quebecers are too politically astute not to recognize a Government that at last accepts their major contribution to the Canadian federation, a Government that supports their international presence because it believes, and rightly so, that Quebec's contribution enhances Canada's status, while Canada's status benefits Quebec.

Quebec will become a signatory to the Canadian Constitution. In 1984, Quebecers rejected a Liberal Government that held them in contempt, but today, they see themselves reflected in a Progressive Conservative Party where their unique strength is represented and their energy, their special characteristics and their expectations are held in high regard. That is what they expect from the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister of Canada and that is what the Government and the Prime Minister are committed to give.

*The Address—Mr. Penner*

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there will be a new chapter in the history of Canada. After negotiating the Constitution under the Conservative Macdonald-Cartier Government, Quebec was excluded under the Liberals and will now be able to return, its head held high, under Brian Mulroney's Conservative administration.

● (1440)

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions or comments? If there are no questions or comments, debate.

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, when the Speech from the Throne was being read by Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, I was absent from Ottawa attending the annual meeting of the Parliamentarians of the Commonwealth, a meeting which this year was held in London, England. That meeting was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II, who is the head of the Commonwealth, and by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher whose Government was hosting this year's conference. I wish to advise the House that two of the heaviest items on the agenda at the conference were, first, the continuing, distressing and disturbing question of apartheid in South Africa and, second, the future of the Commonwealth itself.

At the conference, there was an air of confidence that the racist regime in South Africa would eventually collapse. It was also felt that those Governments that had introduced strong economic sanctions were Governments that were helping to bring about the collapse of that white supremacy regime much faster than would otherwise be the case. It was felt that what has happened in southern Rhodesia, which is now the new nation of Zimbabwe and now has a high degree of racial harmony, will in fact also be the pattern in South Africa in time.

Of course, the United Kingdom was somewhat embarrassed by its position on sanctions. Baroness Young made a noble attempt to explain to delegates from all across the Commonwealth that the U.K. position could be justified, but in fact her speech was rather poorly received. It was necessary for no less a personage than the Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to come to the conference to indicate that there was no question at all about the United Kingdom's commitment to the Commonwealth and about the United Kingdom's desire to see apartheid end in South Africa, but that it could not agree with other Commonwealth leaders including Canada that sanctions would be effective.

In speaking at that conference, I was proud to say that Canada's position was unequivocal and strong. Many other delegates from across the Commonwealth praised the leadership of Canada and, as one delegate among the many, that gave me reason for pride in my own country.

I notice that the Speech from the Throne reinforces the commitment of Canada to the Commonwealth and to the ending of apartheid in South Africa. I will quote from the