

which they should always bear in mind, when they think of the secondary role we should hold, and that is the past, the proud reply of those who, in 1815, answered General Washington who had sent commanding officer Arnold to take over our country. That answer gave history the glorious page of Châteauguay where de Salaberry and his light infantrymen put an end to the ambitious dream the United States had of making of Canada a new American state.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Rochon: In this, our centennial year, Mr. Speaker, we must forget all those vicissitudes. We must look to the past so as to better prepare the future, look to the past without bitterness so as to correct, if possible, what faults there may be. For, lest it be forgotten, while we celebrate the first century of confederation, we also celebrate the dawn of another.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Some would like that an interprovincial conference be convened immediately to study the possibilities of amending or redrafting the constitution. We must be very careful and proceed methodically, and I think the government and the authorities concerned are right when they say, in the speech from the throne:

During the past one hundred years the world has changed beyond the recognition of anything within the experience of those who laid the foundations of confederation. That our constitutional structure has endured and served so well the progress of our country is a measure of the basic soundness of its principles as well as the willingness of those concerned to adapt their application to changing needs and changing conditions.

It is in this spirit that the government has in recent years actively promoted the reform of detailed federal-provincial arrangements which, with the fundamental law, compose the constitutional structure of our country. While orderly reform may well be the best way of preserving and strengthening our heritage, the most careful consideration must be given to what we do. Studies to obtain the best advice on this important matter are now underway with a view to subsequent consideration of the whole problem by parliament.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government re-elected in 1965 understands the situation thoroughly and, in the conditions prevailing in Canada today, it is behaving as the Fathers of Confederation themselves would have. The government wants to adapt itself to the present necessities; they want to show themselves worthy of the past in order to prepare for the future; in short,

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and I quote another paragraph from the speech from the throne, this is what they want to do:

With our forefathers, the fight was against the immense odds of nature on our half of this continent. Today the main struggle is against social injustice, against cultural mediocrity, against spiritual stagnation and against all forms of intolerance.

At the beginning of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I said that instead of trying to analyse the great legislative program announced in the speech from the throne, I would say a few words about the centennial of confederation. However, there are two points which I should like to refer to, because they are of very particular interest to my constituency. The first is the proposed legislation concerning a better control of broadcasting and the establishment of broadcasting facilities for educational purposes, and the second is a special study on urban development made in close consultation with the appropriate authorities.

Considering that at the last election, I had more than 125,000 electors, representing a total population of nearly 400,000 or almost half a million; considering that that number, includes almost 125,000 school-age children; considering that nearly two-fifths of educational institutions at the primary, secondary and scientific levels are located in my constituency; considering that the second biggest city in Quebec, the city of Laval, has a population greater than that of Quebec city, Trois-Rivières and other cities in my province and that it makes up half of my riding, one will understand why my electors and myself strongly support a plan to organize educational television in a way that would increase scientific progress.

We are convinced that such a step must be taken. We believe that it is one of the best ways to put a stop to those indecent or too daring programs which unfortunately corrupt our children when they do not deprave them.

Besides, as far as television is concerned, the speech from the throne provides for the granting of wider powers to the Board of Broadcast Governors which will be better able to see to it that the rules are obeyed.

I do not have to emphasize the special study on urban development; a city like the city of Laval which as I said, is the second in importance in Quebec, was created three years ago by amalgamating the 14 municipalities on Ile Jésus. It is a wonderful site. The island is surrounded by two rivers: the Prairies and the Mille Iles rivers. Secondary