

and I see no differences between the races and beliefs of our population to prevent us from co-operating in making our country a great country. Why then should we not provide in our very constitution the means of amending it as new problems arise? The various legislatures of our provinces are asked at every session to amend the charters of from ten to twenty towns. If it is necessary to change charters of our cities and towns, how can we avoid changes also in provincial as well as federal legislation, whilst safeguarding the rights and privileges which **no person wants to give up or dreams of losing? I am talking of the right to speak our language, but I have in mind all our rights.** I would like to see assured to us all rights which the constitution guarantees, some of which the prime minister has had the courage to admit were not guaranteed. Before all my colleagues of this honourable house and before all the public men of Canada, I want to express the opinion that the French language should be recognized in the whole country—not only in the federal Parliament and in the province of Quebec, but also in all the provinces of the Canadian confederation. Our fathers were good Canadian citizens. They laid the foundations of the country's civilization, and I cannot understand why the right to speak their language should not be recognized in every part of Canada. There are French Canadians in Canada, and they are here to stay. We must live together as brothers. Let us therefore join hands with greater confidence and keep before our eyes the picture of a Canada free from barriers between provinces and from divisions between racial groups. We will thereby ensure, in the true interest of Canada, the stability and expansion of our economic development. (Text):

Honourable senators, will you allow me to tell you how privileged I feel at being permitted to participate in the debates of the Senate of my country, and, much more, in being a colleague of every present member of this honourable assembly.

I come here with as little prejudice as I could bring with me, my mind open to the study of every problem concerning the life, prosperity and happiness of my country. In the discharge of my duties I do not intend to be what in French we call "brouillon"—that is hasty and boisterous; rather, I think it will be my duty, especially during this first session, to listen, study and consider every problem in the light of Canadian interests.

In my mind and in my soul Canada is not divided by territorial interests, races or creeds; it is a rich, happy, united and great nation, to the future of which any citizen

must be proud to devote, heartily and without any reserve, all that he can contribute.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Ray Petten: Honourable senators, there comes a time in the lives of some men when they are called upon to perform a duty which creates in them a profound and paradoxical sense of pride and humility. They are proud because they are the instruments chosen to perform a service of honour, but humble because they realize the magnitude of their responsibilities and, viewing themselves impartially, are quite conscious of their limitations. So today I am aware of the great honour that is mine, in that the privilege has been granted me to second the motion so ably presented by the honourable senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Godbout), whose distinguished career has made his name familiar even beyond the boundaries of our nation, and has placed him amongst the foremost of contemporary Canadian statesmen. He began his career as an educator and carried the principles of his profession into the wider field of politics. His name is synonymous with Canadian unity, which he did so much to preserve and promote. It is also inspirational to hear him speak in his native language, which indicates how well the Canadian nation protects the identity and traditions of its units while providing the strength and the greatness which union gives the whole.

I should like at this point to associate myself with the honourable senator's congratulatory remarks to the distinguished senator for Rougemont (Hon. Elie Beauregard) on his nomination as Speaker of this house. His long experience in public life furnishes ample reason for confidence in his ability to discharge his high functions with dignity and ease, thus successfully emulating the high traditions of his predecessors.

I also wish to join with the proposer in thanking the honourable leader for the way he has received me in this house, and to say how pleased I feel to assure him of our co-operation in the work which he directs with so much tact and diplomacy.

I would like honourable senators to know that I realize that the privilege granted me of speaking on the floor of this house today is an honour to the province I represent rather than a tribute to any merits which I myself may possess. This knowledge adds to the already weighty responsibilities of my task, for the manner in which I discharge it will redound, whether for good or ill, not on me alone, but on the land of my birth, that honourable island of venerable history which now is a part of that proud confederacy of progressive peoples, the great nation of Canada. I am also fully aware that in this