

did I sell myself? To a party led by a French Canadian, Pierre Elliott Trudeau? To whom did I sell myself? To a state the head of which is a French Canadian, Jules Léger?

Let us be honest and objective! There is no doubt that power is not evenly balanced in Canada. For a variety of reasons, French Canadians have yet to be fully recognized whether in business or within the federal bureaucracy, but considerable progress has been made in the last twenty years or so. To say that we are a colonized people is to deliberately ignore the efforts made by French Canadians who have gained more and more influence in all spheres of activity. It is also to ignore the fact that the Province of Quebec, like the other Canadian provinces, has considerable autonomy in most of the sectors which directly affect the public at large.

Quebec wishes to control its economy and feels that political independence is necessary in order to do this. Many of you may feel that this aspiration is completely natural, but I ask you, what has been the trend in the world's economic development for the last thirty years? Has it not followed the road to interdependence between countries? An interdependence which is reinforced by growth in international trade, modern means of communication, transportation, the transfer of technology, the industrialization of developing countries and the financial system. The economies of different countries are clearly interdependent. This trend is increasing, and both France and Canada are fully aware of, and involved in the whole process.

The weaker a country is in terms of its GNP, its population or its degree of industrialization, the more dependent it is on other countries. Where would that put Quebec if it separated?

Having said this, I would like to point out that the situation is far from catastrophic for the so-called "Quebec colony". I see that even the Premier of Quebec feels that his province has achieved success from an economic and cultural point of view. René Lévesque told the members of the Economic Club in New York: "...now, at long last, Quebec is a fully developed society. It has over six million people, eighty-two per cent of whom are French by descent, language and cultural heritage. Montreal, our metropolis, is the second largest French city in the world. Our gross national product would make us twenty-third among the nations of the world and eleventh on a per capita basis."\* Therefore federalism has not stifled Quebec.

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\*Speech given by René Lévesque to the Economic Club, New York, on January 25, 1977.