

no reason why national matters should continue to remain within the jurisdiction of the provinces. There is plenty of scope for the provincial jurisdiction; there are many matters for the provinces to deal with that are best left to them.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we must revive the spirit of Canadian national consciousness. That spirit made our troops in France a great fighting force. It can make our people a great nation in the cause of peace. After all, what is the one bond that unites all Canadians? We live in a great country, with great possibilities, but it is a difficult country to govern. There are many racial stocks within its borders, and the economic interests of its various sections are widely divergent. I need not elaborate this further; for every member of the house realizes the difficulty of devising policies of universal application in the various sections of this country. Yet there is one unity amongst us all. The French-Canadians, the Canadians of British stock, the Canadians of foreign-born stock, have one thing in common: We are all Canadians and can unite in a common Canadian cause. That cause is the cause of Canadian nationhood. Surely, as Canadians, we can rip from ourselves the constitutional straight-jacket that now confines our actions, and face with courage and determination, in the cause of Canada, the necessary reforms of our constitution that will give this national parliament power to discharge its national obligations and at the same time enable the legislatures of the provinces to discharge their proper and appropriate functions.

I have great hope that we shall receive some assistance in this task from the report of the Rowell commission on dominion-provincial relations. I was very glad to see the wide scope of that commission; I was particularly pleased with this paragraph in the terms of reference:

That the commissioners be instructed to consider and report upon the facts disclosed by their investigations; and to express what in their opinion, subject to the retention of the distribution of legislative powers essential to a proper carrying out of the federal system in harmony with national needs and the promotion of national unity, will best effect a balanced relationship between the financial powers and the obligations and functions of each governing body, and conduce to a more efficient, independent and economical discharge of government responsibilities in Canada.

I hope that the findings and recommendations of this national commission will open a new door to the future and will indicate the constitutional reforms that ought to be

made. If they do, then we can accomplish the necessary recasting of our constitution. That task must be faced—it must be faced with courage and determination. It will call for Canadian statesmanship of a high order, but it will be a task worthy of the greatest Canadian statesmanship; those who face it will do a great service to the Canadian people; if they succeed, a great new nation will be born.

It is also my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that the retention of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is now an anachronism, a survival of colonial inferiority, and inconsistent with our rights and our duties as members of a commonwealth of autonomous self-governing dominions. The appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were meant for the colonies. Canada is no longer a colony. It is a self-governing, autonomous community, equal in status with all the other British nations that make up the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Mr. BENNETT: All freely associated.

Mr. THORSON: Certainly, freely associated. Great Britain does not use the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as its court of last resort. It has as its court of last resort the House of Lords at Westminster; we in Canada should use at Ottawa our own court of last resort, the Supreme Court of Canada; make it in real truth a Supreme Court for the whole of Canada. Australia has limited appeals in constitutional cases, and as a result she has not suffered from the constitutional impasse which it has been the misfortune of Canada to endure.

I have often been asked why it is that Canadian students who attend English universities almost invariably come back to Canada stauncher Canadians than they were when they left our shores to attend the English schools. It is natural that this should be the result; there is nothing unnatural about it. These Canadian students who go to the homes of learning in England and elsewhere in the British isles learn the essential spirit of the British constitution, that is, that it is the right and the duty of all peoples who live under the British constitution to govern themselves in every aspect of government, internal and external, and that they must exercise every function of self-government, legislative, executive and judicial. It is more consistent with the essence of the British constitution than otherwise that Canadians should be good Canadians and should assert for themselves their rights to self-government, and