

diplomacy, few serious disagreements have arisen over our actions abroad. This is not unnatural in foreign affairs, and we can hardly expect a consensus on the national interest in other fields to be achieved as readily.

Yet achieved it must be. We have to pursue the logic of a bicultural society in ensuring justice and a balance of interests for all. We have to agree about federal and provincial responsibilities. We have the economic and social challenges I have already mentioned. We must rise as a nation to these responsibilities. Every issue must be thoroughly debated, but the debate should clarify issues, not obstruct eventual decision and action. When the decisions are made we must implement them loyally and vigorously, if we value the institutions through which the decisions were made and if we respect ourselves as a nation.

I say this because there are some who see solutions only in abandoning some vital part of our heritage and altering fundamentally some part of our political structure. There are some who doubt our present identity or long-term durability as a nation, or who speak cynically about our capacity for resolving political problems.

Considering all that we have experienced and achieved together in the 100 years since Confederation, I proclaim my own loyalty to Canada as I am sure most of you see it - a nation with elements of true greatness, capable of deriving new strength and richness from its very diversity and respected among the nations of the world.

I see it as Sir Wilfrid Laurier described it 69 years ago to an audience in Paris: "Notre pays est un pays ... plein de vigueur, d'activité et d'ambition. Le sang de la jeunesse bout dans ses veines; il a foi dans son avenir". The words are moving in either of our languages, and I repeat them to you: "Our country is a land full of vigour, of action and of ambition. The blood of youth stirs in its veins, it has faith in its future".

The future of the country will be assured if enough of its citizens recognize the democratic imperative of participating in those political processes which best determine the national interest. Some people cast aspersions on political activity, as if it were divorced from major interests of the people. Of them I would say what Pericles said of some of the Greeks: "It never occurs to any of them that the apathy of one will damage the interests of all". Political judgment, good or bad, affects the vital interests of the whole community. It must, therefore, be of general concern.

Canada has many demands to make of your generation for its own immediate well-being and for the accomplishment of honourable tasks in the world. The country deserves your loyalty, requires your intelligence and depends on your desire to work for the common interest of all your fellow citizens.