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TOWARD A NEW CANADIAN FEDERALISM

The following is a partial text of an address by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Guy Favreau, to a study session of Montreal police officers on November 9:

...When Ottawa calls a federal-provincial conference, the Canadian Government — at least, such is the case today — has no intention of condescending or acting as a father who, using his authority, calls his children together at home. It is rather acting as an associate who suggests to other equal associates that they hold a meeting in order to study matters of concern to all. Ottawa is not, and must not be, an octopus whose tentacles are trying to smother politically and financially the ten Canadian provinces. Ottawa is not, and must not dream of being, the master of Confederation. On the contrary, it is the provinces and Ottawa together who must decide the future of Confederation and, in my opinion, its survival in a new spirit.

If I am fighting for the maintenance of the federal link, it is surely not to interfere with the cultural, industrial and economic future of my people. I am opposing secession, while supporting with all my strength the conception of a more fruitful autonomy for the provinces, because I am thinking of the numerous dangers of isolation and the future of a vast country on the way to becoming a world power to which anyone would be proud to belong...

CONVERGENCE NOT DIVERGENCE

The Premier of Quebec said that he wished to make of Quebec a "centre of radiance". Bravo! Ottawa

is applauding such a policy, because "to radiate" does not mean to retire within oneself. And I can assure you that all the Quebec Members, whatever their political allegiance, are proud of any positive position taken towards the province and Canada. If Quebec separates, it will become a prisoner in its own house. Whether we want it or not, we would then be surrounded, literally encircled, by 200 million English-speaking people.

Even at the risk of repeating what I have already stated, I maintain that the aims which the federal and provincial governments are pursuing are not divergent but convergent; they are not incompatible, — they need each other. The provinces and the federal state, far from being opposing entities, are and must remain realities completing each other.

We are on the eve of a federal-provincial conference, perhaps the most important to this date. Shall we witness a meeting of associates or the facing of contending forces? The answer, in my opinion, will be affirmative only if there is co-operation of all the participants, in a climate of sincerity and without any reserve, for the creation and maintenance of an atmosphere of goodwill and concord. We have learned through the painful experiment of the post-war period that a cold-war climate does not favour arriving at solutions; that the issuing of ultimatums, from either side of the barricades, does not lead to a field fit for negotiation.

I am among those who refuse to believe that there is no solution to the problems raised by federal-provincial relations, but I am with those who believe that, if the interested governments agree to sit as

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