

I suggest to you that if we are to get the maximum benefit from our growing economy and solve the problems of unemployment we must forget the outworn and irrelevant adversary tradition -- that management is the adversary of labour -- that government is the adversary of business -- that St. John's is the adversary of Ottawa -- and learn to live and work together in a spirit of unity for the great national goals that express the common aspirations of us all.

The great experiment of the Canadian Confederation, started in Charlottetown in 1864 and completed in St. John's in 1949, was a continuing process of negotiation, a continuing exercise in co-operation. Confederation was completed in 1949, but that did not bring the process to an end. Each succeeding generation of Canadians must play its part in the continuing adaptation of our national institutions to changing circumstances at home and abroad. The Canadian Confederation is not a fly trapped in amber, it is a living, growing, changing being.

No man is less a Newfoundlander because he is a Canadian. Homogenization may be a good process for milk or peanut butter, for people it can only be life-destroying. I am happy to be in Newfoundland tonight for more than one reason, but the greatest is that Newfoundland is so totally different from upper Canada where most of my life is spent. And it gives me a sense of deep satisfaction that I can be in a different culture, a different community and yet be in Canada, knowing as a Canadian that Newfoundland too is a part of my patrimony.

Across the Western Ocean, where the eyes of Newfoundlanders were fixed for centuries, we see another great experiment in coming together as Britain, Ireland, Norway and Denmark join the Common Market.

One thing is certain, joining the Common Market will not make the British any less British. We were all greatly reassured about this when we read the announcement that although Britain will move rapidly toward the metric system, beer in the pubs will still be served in pints. The British have not lost their capacity for differentiating between what matters and what doesn't. Equally, a decade in the Common Market has not made the French any less French, any more than a century in the Canadian Confederation has made the Canadiens any less Canadien.

We live in a rapidly shrinking world, a world where independence must be exercised within a growing interdependence. And I suggest to you that even as the special characteristics of Newfoundlanders, Québécois or Albertans do not disappear just because we are all Canadians, so we can protect our national sovereignty and enjoy our national independence in a world where international relationships continue to multiply and become more complex.