

choice when justified by number, the right to communicate with government and public agencies in the official language of their choice and the right to argue in court in one or the other official language.

In order to assist the provinces the federal government should offer them all legal and financial assistance needed. The situation in my opinion is so critical that if the provinces should positively refuse to do that, I would seriously consider the use of federal powers provided in section 91 of the British North America Act and for reasons of peace, order and security, to put under the protection of the law those minorities which are so essential to my country.

Second, it is essential that a public body consisting of a representative cross section of society be set up to consult with the people on the future of this country. The Prime Minister has proposed a formula and I agree with it.

Third, given the importance of the group and its need to exist in a united Canada, I believe it would be necessary to set up a national board responsible for the promotion, survival and development of the French-speaking communities outside Quebec. I am convinced and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this board should report to the Prime Minister and, through him, to the House of Commons. The board would have to consult in order to work out concepts, plan and obtain approval for the programs required for the survival and development of minority groups.

Fourth, the Secretary of State should be immediately reorganized so as to foster the implementation of programs. The existing mechanisms set up following the decentralization and regionalization of that department will have to be reviewed. The minorities were not prepared for that, Mr. Speaker. They have been badly served in the last two or three years. The maturity of the minority groups and their mutual needs are so different that it was doing them a bad turn to expect them to take advantage of an organized regionalization or decentralization to meet the government standards which could not meet the needs of the flagging communities.

Fifth, the federal government and the provinces must absolutely give a new direction to their budgets to balance the survival chances of the linguistic minorities, more particularly the French-speaking minorities outside Quebec. What about a linguistic policy which seems to favour the English-speaking majority through a program called institutional bilingualism and which cost \$300 million, when this minority group got only 1 per cent, that is \$3 million up to this year? The government increased those credits to \$6 million this year, and I think it was about time.

Sixth, we will have to bring the Canadian constitution back, but in the meantime we must get the heart and spirit of Canadians back so that we can write a social contract taking its inspiration from and reflecting our common expectations and wishes, free from any past illusion and based on respect, equity, and particularly fraternity between the groups.

Seventh, we have to review all our statutes at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels in order to put an end to

National Unity

those many frustrations which offend and annoy us continuously, Mr. Speaker. I think for instance of the simple fact that a French-speaking person who lives in Ontario, like myself, cannot write his will in his mother tongue and have it registered. This is not legal. I think of the Air Canada case. I think of the Forest case in Manitoba. I think of the Filion case in Toronto and of a great many other cases, Mr. Speaker. We will absolutely have to review our statutes to do away with injustice and frustrations.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read something which is fairly important in my constituency. It is a text written by someone who works in an area which I consider very important, namely children education. She wrote a creed for children. Her name is Mrs. Betty Nickerson, national coordinator of the All About Us/Nous Autres movement. I read this creed: We all come from somewhere, we chose Canada by adoption. In our cultural baggage we have the experience and the wisdom of the world.

Those choice morsels, chosen among the sterling values and traditions of our various peoples, we offer them in tribute to our new homeland. We leave behind us wounds, wars and famines. We live here in a vast and generous land, filled with challenges to be met. The ingenuity we put forth in meshing our various cultural elements will help us develop an identity throughout this phase of our growth, and throughout our lives. Each one of us, within his own confines, will add a flash of colour to the Canadian mosaic. How are we going to fit all those pieces together? There lies the challenge. And that, Mr. Speaker, was written for children. I pay tribute to Mrs. Betty Nickerson.

● (2120)

[English]

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, the preceding speaker spoke of love, and I suppose we shall need lots of love in this country if we are to make our way through to the 21st Century. I should like to talk tonight about some of the facts as I see them in Canada. Occasionally, and only occasionally, do we have a chance to speak in this House about the objectives and aims of the part of the country from which we come, not necessarily our own constituencies but the regions from which we come to represent people in the House of Commons.

I can quite understand the feelings of some of the comments of the hon. member from Quebec who spoke before the last speaker. I come from a part of the country which, frankly, at the present time feels misunderstood and is tired and frustrated coping with what seems to be an ongoing problem of Confederation. We in the west believe that while Quebec must play a part in Canada, that part must be kept in the proper perspective.

Canada is not so much a bilingual country with hyphenated English-Canadianism or French-Canadianism at it is a multicultural country composed of people of many different racial origins who, I believe, want nothing more than to be known as Canadians. The feeling in Canada as we move at times almost