

*Canadian World Exhibition Corporation*

Since one of the great laws of the community of man is unity through diversity, co-operation through mutual respect, association through equality, Montreal was especially suited to hold the world fair.

I believe it is in order at this time to thank the bureau of international exhibitions for selecting Canada and the city of Montreal, for the site of the exhibition. The decision was reached after careful consideration of the claims of other world centres. It is an honour for Canada that Montreal was selected. On account of that decision, it is our duty, as the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sevigny) has already done, to congratulate warmly, the mayor of Montreal, Mr. Jean Drapeau, for his initiative and his determination. From the start, he was convinced that the city of Montreal deserved to be chosen on account of its tremendous advantages. He was right and I am sure that the House of Commons expresses its gratitude to him.

Mr. Speaker, we must also congratulate the three levels of government involved without giving more credit to one than to the others. I mean the federal government, the provincial government and the municipal government, because all three have encouraged the idea of holding a world exhibition and have collaborated and contributed to its realization not only by their valuable advice, but also by a large amount of money, without which the preparation of this project would have been impossible.

To all those who have contributed in some way to this wonderful initiative, the Liberal party offers its thanks.

The choice of Canada's metropolis must be not only a cause to rejoice but also an occasion to show what Canada can do and what Montreal can offer the whole world under the circumstances.

"Man and his World" is the theme of the exhibition which was approved by the bureau of international exhibitions and it does illustrate the new possibilities opened to man's activity and progress. Those four words contain all the creations of mankind. This theme aims at glorifying man without distinction of boundaries, in all the manifestations of his active life, for, after all, the starting point of all discoveries, of all undertakings and of all scientific and technical developments is man himself.

I feel that such a theme constitutes a kind of inspiration capable of creating unity among

nations. In short, the world exhibition is a factor of peace, friendship and progress.

Mr. Speaker, "Man and his World" is a theme which will call to mind the peaceful part played by Canada in the world. With a population of 20 million, a vast territory stretching between two great powers, the U.S.S.R. and the United States, member of the British commonwealth of nations, bound to the western European countries by the Atlantic pact, having contributed considerable amounts of money to underdeveloped countries, on the eve of becoming a member of the organization of American states, with no territorial ambition but wishing peace, seeking from the first to obtain it through its foreign policy, Canada can, through that exhibition, set an example of peace and progress for all countries in the world.

"Man and his World" is also an appropriate theme for the centenary of confederation, when we should stop to consider in what measure the hopes, apprehensions, doubts and fears of the fathers of confederation were justified.

Some recent events have shown that we are going through another crisis of national unity where the very foundation of confederation is shaken. It is not the first time that we undergo such a crisis. We shall overcome it provided we can avoid both extremes. The exhibition will be a splendid occasion to preach and claim Canadian unity, to achieve it and above all to recall that confederation, while it was only a treaty between four states, to certain people, was also, to others, an agreement between two equal partners, its aim being political unity, but without cultural, racial or ethnic uniformity.

"Man and his World" is a theme that will preach respect for human rights. The respect of those new Canadians who, escaping the terror of dictatorships, left their original country to settle among us and look here for freedom, peace and quiet. It will be necessary that they feel perfectly at home in Canada and that they are never done any injustice.

"Man and his World" is a theme that could very well evoke the story of a people that was 65,000 strong two centuries ago and which now numbers 5 million, a people which is determined, to keep at all costs, its language, traditions and culture, which twice in its history pushed back American invaders and preserved Canada against them, and which is now claiming its rightful place in