

*The Address—Mr. Gregoire*

for it has the pride and the ability to do it. In these fields, English Canadians will not be affected nor disturbed.

In other fields, the two great nations can co-operate, for they will then both benefit, and there is no ground for contestation.

The points I have just touched upon such as education, highways, hospitalization, agriculture, the development of natural resources and others—all these various fields should be enumerated in other circumstances or during study sessions—are open to discussion; there is disagreement and strife between English speaking and French speaking Canadians in that connection at present.

Yet, there would be no wrangling if each nation or each group were left to settle its problems by itself. Then, we could agree on other points.

What are those other points? I will not give them all but there is the defence of the country—and I say "country" not "nation"—external affairs, the mail, interprovincial transportation by means of the C.N.R., T.C.A., etc.

The solution would be to abandon to the province of Quebec those fields which it is able and willing—and must—to look after by itself, and put at the head of the country as a whole a supranational parliament, that is one which would be above both nations, a truly confederal government which would handle the fields which cause no disagreement among the Canadian people.

What does that mean? It means, as a corollary, that the province of Quebec must recover its sources of revenue and taxation. That is the first point.

That is what nearly all the people from Quebec are asking at present.

The other day, I heard a member of the house say: The Creditistes do not represent the French Canadians, nor are they their spokesmen. That is true, I admit. I do not claim to be the standard-bearer of French Canadians, because they are able to speak for themselves. But when I see, for instance, that the Liberal government of the province of Quebec, to begin with, is asking that sources of income, direct taxes, be handed over to the provinces, that the opposition, the Union Nationale party, is following suit by making the same demands with as much emphasis, that students throughout the province of Quebec, as well as national organizations, farmers and labourers, by means of resolutions, are calling for the same thing, I suggest then that French Canada itself is making itself heard, not only one individual but the people, the institutions, the organizations of the province of Quebec as a whole.

One individual does not represent the voice of the people, but sometimes some leaders speak on behalf of the people. At any rate, the

voice of Quebec is being heard now and is demanding its sources of income and taxation so that the province may be in a position to develop by itself, as it can do.

When some people suggest, for instance, that to leave Quebec on its own would result in economic disaster, I say that they are either trying to intimidate us or to scare us, but personally, I am not afraid, because I am convinced that the province of Quebec has enough engineers, scientists, skilled labourers at present, and above all enough natural resources and industries, to be in a position to develop and expand.

Mr. Speaker, two nations which would not be separatist nor divided but independent within a country extending from sea to sea, each nation having exclusively the complete control in certain fields and being in agreement on a certain number of others, that could become a reality as it has been done before. I have already mentioned a small country as an example. I do not wish to compare both countries: Puerto Rico and Canada. Evidently I cannot make any comparison about the climate; we do not have the same climate as Puerto Rico. I will not make any comparison in the commercial field because conditions are different. I will not make any comparison in the economic field, because our agriculture and our industries are different. But I wish to compare our constitutions and on that point only, I wish to give some examples. I have on hand some information which I have obtained by tearing off pages from a telephone directory in Puerto Rico:

[Text]

Puerto Rico today is a self governing commonwealth of the United States—

You will see what kind of self government they have:

The commonwealth was officially proclaimed on July 25, 1952.

The constitution of the commonwealth is in complete harmony with the federal constitution, providing for a republican form of government with executive, legislative and judicial branches.

[Translation]

While being a member of the American commonwealth and associated with the United States, Puerto Rico is a free state which fully controls its judicial, executive and legislative system.

[Text]

**Mr. Winch:** Mr. Speaker, could I ask a question of the hon. member?

**Mr. Gregoire:** Yes.

**Mr. Winch:** In view of your quotation, is it your contention that the province of Quebec—which you prefer to call the state of Quebec—should be a self governing section of Canada?