

as we have in other major conflicts in which many Canadians paid the supreme sacrifice. We must rediscover the common element which originally united us and lay to rest the destructive forces which now divide us. We must accept each region as part of Canada, and its people as our fellow Canadians. We must share and take pride in our common heritage, and not dwell upon our differences—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I hate to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired. He can continue only if he has unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles: I do not object, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member continuing for a minute or so, but it was understood when we established the 20-minute rule today that speeches would be limited to 20 minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Manicouagan (Mr. Maltais).

[*Translation*]

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to speak today in the context of the throne speech debate. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the two members (Mrs. Côté and Mr. Frith) who so generously accepted to move the motion in reply, in view of the intentions expressed by the present government regarding its legislative program for the coming session.

I would have liked to speak about the problems of my riding, in view of the size of the area I represent, which is 600 miles of coast line by 1,250 miles long. I would also have liked to speak of Fort Chimo, Blanc Sablon, Anticosti Island, Baie Comeau, and Schefferville, of the problems of television, of maritime transportation, of tariffs, of the difficulties we are experiencing with the postal service, but in light of the major debate now going on in Quebec, it is important, I believe, to try and define the problems facing Quebeckers.

First, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the people I represent are proud to be members of a country called Canada. But this pride has been marred by some frustrations during this referendum debate. It is to some people's advantage to exaggerate those frustrations, so that some of our English Canadian friends may wonder what are the true intentions of the people of Quebec.

I would like to answer those questions immediately by saying simply that Quebeckers for the most part want to stay in Canada but, given an ambiguous question, they are now in a period of deep reflection and perhaps contradiction, and if that is the way it is, it is because the government now representing them in Quebec does not have the courage or at least the honesty to ask them a real question.

So I think that the real answer of the people of Quebec was recently given twice to a man called Pierre Trudeau, and if the

The Address—Mr. Maltais

members of this House want to give me the time to do so, I would like at the same time to tell them that Quebeckers, as you may realize, gave their definitive answer on two occasions in the past 12 months and it was every time stronger than ever before. So I say that you must first admit that the people of Quebec are happy to be in Canada but would like to see certain changes made.

The area I represent is somewhat a Canada on a smaller scale. I have in my riding, of course, Francophones, Anglophones vis-à-vis Newfoundland—I have 5,000 Anglophones who are completely vis-à-vis Newfoundland—I have a good group of Inuits in Fort Chimo, extremely proud people, with a lively culture, happy of what they are, who would also want to continue to develop their heritage. I am thinking, among others, of Charlie Watt, who represents his group very well. I am also thinking of Mr. Gerry Paquin who has been in Fort Chimo for 15 years, a civil servant who is doing an extremely good job representing the federal institutions over there.

I am also thinking of Mr. Charlie McCormick who administered, who built the Anticosti Island, lost right in the middle of the St. Lawrence. I am thinking of Mr. Francis McKinnon, in St. Augustin, a fisherman, a contractor, a builder. I am thinking of people like Charles Bégin, Claude Ménard, people like Mr. René Coicou, who are mayors of their communities. Mr. Coicou is a very colourful man for the place, being himself from Haiti, but represents his community by being the local mayor. You see that people over there know what sharing means and are not racists. Mr. Charles Bégin who has been in Schefferville for 20 years and has been forging in that area a very flourishing area but also very difficult area to reach because there are no roads there. My constituents are builders. As I said earlier, they are native people, Inuit and Montagnais. There are Ben Mackenzie, of Malotienam, and others who still cover 380 miles on foot and portaging to go fishing and trapping in Labrador. These are all elements of the same constituency, and I believe that a constituency like my own riding of Manicouagan is truly a microcosm of Canada.

However, what is extremely dangerous is to see people who want to destroy us and who, instead of stating clearly their intentions, use insidious words, comments or questions, so that all they are trying to obtain in Quebec on May 20 is a symbolic Yes, a booby-trapped yes, after which the government will take over and provide its own interpretation. I would like to tell the people of Quebec that until May 20 they still have control over their reply to the question, but that after May 20, the government will be able to interpret their answer to the question and that this is where the danger lies. This is why we have to fight as French Canadians to ensure that our rights will be respected and to prevent people from being misled because it will be too late to go back afterwards. I shall simply ask Quebeckers to think about Labrador. When Labra-