

To sum up, our cherished independence allows us to have our voice heard and our views expressed in world councils, to make a distinctively Canadian contribution to the affairs of all men everywhere. In short, to be ourselves.

You Newfoundlanders understand the meaning of independence. You struggled and fought for it. Then you decided to pool your independence with the rest of us in Canada. But the voice of Newfoundland in the affairs of men is not stilled either in the Parliament of Canada or in the world.

One of its most eloquent spokesmen has moved from the centre of the stage. But as long as he lives, Joey Smallwood will be a symbol of the restless, indomitable spirit of Newfoundland. I was one of those involved in the negotiations for Union and I add my tribute to a true Father of Confederation without whom Union could not have taken place.

I believe it is a good thing for the world that we have a distinctively Canadian contribution to make. It is a good thing that there is an independent North American voice in world affairs. In a world that must learn how to resolve conflicts and to live in peace, despite the great differences between its peoples, the Canadian experience in building a nation with two great language groups and many cultures is relevant indeed. Perhaps our contribution is a modest one, since we must act within the limits of our capacity. We must, at the same time, act to the full extent of our capacity. I believe we do.