

This warning should make us think, because conditions of exaggerated tension often lead to violence but rarely to true progress. In my opinion, it is a matter of urgency for our élite to draw closer to the realities of our time and to the real preoccupations of the people. In a democratic framework, the members of the élite cannot succeed in their ideal of development and progress unless they keep in human contact with the milieu, accepting it as it is at the initial stage of action, and not as they imagine it to be or as they would like it to be. This human rapprochement between the élite and the people is necessary to ensure the balance and the stability of the French-Canadian society. Such a recognition of reality will also view co-operative federalism not as a way of collective suicide but as a new way of life based on the interdependence that unites us to other Canadians and permitting us, at last, to co-operate with them in equality and dignity to further not only our greater or more material interests but our more noble interests as well.

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