

ans a chance to own and create on their own. It is only with such a unifying attitude that the vision which created this dominion from sea to sea, the vision that inspired Laurier to say that the century belongs to Canada, and the vision that inspired Bennett to say that he would blast his way to the markets of the world, can be realized. It is only with vision, hope, the aspirations and the dreams of a great Canada, the vision of John Diefenbaker, that we can really make this country one united Canada.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, will you be so kind as to extend my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Sauvé for her appointment to her high position. I am all the prouder that you, the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, are in the chair today. I shall limit the questions I am going to deal with today to two subjects, through a lack of time.

[*English*]

I would love to have the occasion to answer some of the statements made by the hon. member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). It appears to me, if I heard him properly, that he would even object to the people of Chicoutimi having television in English. I do not see the argument he is trying to make, except to say, if I repeat what he said correctly, that he said there were no French-speaking people in Vancouver. There are as many French-speaking people in Vancouver as there are English-speaking people in Quebec City, so he can take it from there.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gauthier:** The other statement he made, which I thought was a rather low blow, was to blame the seconder of the motion for making a comment on the Penetanguishene school question and picking a fight, as he said, with Mrs. Stephenson. I would like him to address himself as a Canadian to the following question: Is there a local fight in Penetanguishene, or is it a fight for the existence of a people? The issue is French-speaking Ontarians who want a school in Penetanguishene, not Mrs. Stephenson or the hon. member's statements.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I could use up almost entirely the 20 minutes allotted to me to refute the remarks made by my colleague, the hon. member for Mississauga South, but I would waste my time in the exercise and probably my patience. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank my constituents of Ottawa-Vanier who re-elected me for a fourth mandate in less than seven years.

Four elections in seven years, that means the participation of a great many people, but I have agreed to represent them and I agree, as I have previously done, to represent them to the best of my ability and to present their views as objectively and correctly as I possibly can.

*The Address—Mr. Gauthier*

If there is a lot of talk in this debate about the Quebec referendum, it is because all the members of the House and all Canadians are concerned about the referendum process which involves, whether we like it or not, the democratic right to self-determination. Personally, I live in Ontario, and my country is Canada where French and English are the official languages. As I said, I live in Ontario where English is the only official language. I have received from my parents a language and a culture which are not those of the majority in the province of Ontario. Some 500,000 Canadians of French descent in Ontario, people like me and you, Mr. Speaker, have worked very hard to keep their cultural and linguistic heritage. We pursue this Canadian dream of a united Canada. Yet, we are living a constant nightmare, that of assimilation. The frustrations, and they are many, of which my Quebec cousins speak, we, of the Francophone minority outside Quebec, have felt them a hundredfold.

How much easier it would be for me to fight for the federalist thesis if the two official languages of my country were also the two official languages of my province! But such is not the case. If I am a federalist, and that I am, right through and through, as are also the million French-speaking Canadians who live outside Quebec, it is strictly because the federal government was the entity, at times the only one, which came to my rescue, supported me and gave me the services I needed to survive.

Earlier, the hon. member for Mississauga South mentioned the Secretary of State who spent money in support of those various groups. I am one of those. The Francophone minorities benefit from federalism, through the financial assistance they get from the Secretary of State in support of their social and cultural projects. The Official Languages Act of the federal government has allowed me, for almost 20 years now, to express myself in my own tongue, to make myself understood by my colleagues in this House of Commons. Outside the House, Canada, the Canadian government, have also agreed to serve the Canadian people in either French or English. In no small measure, the support needed for the education of the minorities was given and at times granted only by the federal government through grants and financial assistance to the education of the two official languages minority groups. The truth of the matter is that those groups receive considerable help from the federal government. I think it is quite normal that my country should help me, in the province where I live, when there is need for it, if we believe and wish that Canada exist as a separate entity, one that differs from the United States or any other state.

Mr. Speaker, it is sometimes despite the provinces that Francophone minorities have survived. This is why it is not unfair to say that had it not been for the role of the federal government you and I, Mr. Speaker, would have been assimilated. Yet we have made some gains, we have acquired