

Quebec already has certain established rights for which she has no need to struggle. These rights must surely be of some value to French-Canadians as individuals. These rights give you and me and our two communities an inalienable place on the Canadian stage.

I do not see why Quebecers would want to throw away something they have, something which they could develop even further in the future.

I know that, to some, these rights do not have, or no longer have, any value. This is because they have not yet been able to make full use of them, for reasons for which French Canada itself is partially responsible.

However, the battle of French Canada is not yet over. It is in Canada that it must be fought. The struggle for the survival of individuals and of groups, wherever they may be, is not an easy one, particularly when the rules of the game work to their disadvantage, as has been the case for French Canada in this country. We must admit the fact. And we have no need of outsiders to remind us of it. But would the rules of the game be any more favourable for an independent Quebec? I believe not.

The French-Canadian, if he wishes to survive and to progress, must make a constant effort to do so.

His only protection is his own will to survive.

He would have no greater protection in his own state than he could have within a Canada in which he is a full partner. Furthermore, on the international level, for example, the French-Canadian speaks through the intermediary of a country with a population of 20 million; he is backed in the world by the support of the great nation of which he is part.

In actual fact, nothing is easy. All aspects of life, whatever the structures of society, where one must work within the framework of man-made institutions, demand constant and strenuous effort. It is not easy for an English-speaking Canadian to represent a constituency in the Parliament of Canada. It is still more difficult for those who represent French-Canadian communities. They must struggle desperately, and often without recognition, for the interests of the citizens whom they represent. The work which they are doing with their English-speaking fellow citizens for French Canada and for Canada as a whole will soon produce a new Canada which can command the loyalty of all Canadians.

We all have the maturity, the wisdom and the vision required to plan and build this new Canada ourselves.

Canada, nevertheless, offers French Canada her best opportunity. Canada will see to it that these opportunities become even greater, for she is realizing, as Quebec asserts herself, grows in importance and assumes an ever larger role, that she cannot do without these six million French-Canadians in the task of building a new Canada.

Without Quebec, Canada would lose almost one-third of her greatest resource - the men she needs to dream of, plan, guide and build Canada. And this one-third is extremely important, its potential enormous for Canada, but on the condition that it remain what it is - French-Canadian.