

Centennial Year is a time for the expression of a justified pride in our country. It is also a time for reflexion on what makes this country tick and what we can expect of it in the future.

From a glance at the programme of your Centennial week at the University it is obvious that you have been focussing on many of the most serious questions of Canada in 1967, for example the native peoples, international economic relations and the place of Quebec in Confederation.

Tonight I would like to bring together some of the underlying themes of your various discussions and consider the basis of Canadian Confederation and our future prospects.

There is no question about it - the problem of national unity is the most serious which Canadians must face as our 100th birthday comes to a close. We cannot afford to bury our individual or collective heads in the sand. No part of Canada is exempt from the responsibility of studying the problem; no group would be exempt from the consequences of a failure to accept this responsibility.

The question, as I see it, is one of finding ways for two communities to live together in the greater community which is Canada. I say "ways" and not "way" because I do not think that there is one magic formula for the solution of our unity problem. We are not looking for a law of physics which has so far eluded us but which, when found, would answer all our questions. No, we are engaged in the most complex of problems - to find modus vivendi among groups of human beings with different backgrounds, outlooks and characteristics. I look at it in terms of a process rather than a goal - a road rather than a terminus.