

In the final analysis the wellbeing of the community consists in the happiness of the individual, and surely that individual is most happy in a free state when he is given the opportunity to accumulate some worth for the benefit of his family. In my professional capacity I have witnessed the results of the impairment of initiative resulting from excessive taxation. Notwithstanding the pressures of groups, this country will not succeed in reaching true maturity and great heights unless the individual is encouraged to improve his lot to a reasonable degree. Such encouragement leads to improved education by the individual himself, greater initiative and a display of discipline, all of which tend to improve the person himself.

These observations, I am aware, ring in the ears of some people as if I were speaking from a nineteenth century platform. In my opinion, however, these good old-fashioned virtues still have considerable value.

Universal suffrage, as predicted, tends to make governments responsive to group pressures. Courage is required to resist the same. However, it is the duty of government not to spoon-feed people but to create that political, economic and social climate which will enable the individual to develop the inner qualities and gifts with which he is endowed by nature. Let us hear less of giving and a little more of encouraging others to do things for themselves.

It is part of the normal political scene in a democratic country to hear much about the "just society", disparity in regional economic development, our lag in the production of technical facilities for the development of our natural resources, our failure to increase our gross national product at a fair rate, our serious maladjustment in the distribution of our gross national product, our fear of foreign investment, the relationship of capital, business and labour, the generation gap and campus unrest, all of which cumulatively create in the minds of some people a certain malaise. This should not be so.

The subject-matters to which I have just referred are merely the normal problems that arise within a vigorous democratic nation which is on the march. We should not be worried about differences of opinion between various groups of our population, because perfection is not the lot of man and there will always be problems that will have to be solved. I would assume that honourable senators would prefer living in a vigorous imperfect society rather than be lulled into lassitude in a perfect society.

What is important, however, and what should be the cause for concern, is the fact that some of these problems are approached by fellow Canadians with acrimony, bitterness, lack of understanding and respect and, alas, sometimes with violence. In such an atmosphere solutions of a lasting nature cannot be made.

The essence, as I see it, honourable senators, is that we must attempt to develop, not by way of lip-service only, but, in truth, a mutual regard and respect one for the other, and having done so we must mobilize not only our personal intellectual resources but also all the institutional facilities that we have available—our provincial governments, our federal government, our business institutions, our universities—all these co-operating in any orderly fashion to meet the problems of the day.

A great political thinker of the nineteenth century—my impression is that it was Walter Bagehot—stated that there is a danger that people do not truly believe in the biblical message that man was made in the image of God. If one truly believed that this were so, then one could appreciate the divine spark that rests in all of us, and this would be very helpful indeed when sitting down to conference tables in attempting to solve differences. We open our deliberations in this chamber by reading from the Bible. As we listen to these prayers it would be well also to hear that voice from the Bible which speaks of this divine spark.

Let us, therefore, honourable senators, thank Providence for this our great and glorious country. Let us commit ourselves to the cause of world peace. Let us attempt to obliterate, or at least reduce, poverty in our land. Let us in utter humility attempt to be fair to all of those who have been denied some of the good things of life that are given to others. In the process we shall enrich our own personalities and bring about a greater and richer Canada.

Before closing I desire to thank honourable senators for the courtesies and amenities extended to me since my entry into this chamber. I am particularly grateful to Senator Flynn for overlooking the fact that I have been a loyal and persistent devotee of a party to which he does not belong, and in this respect he has overlooked my lack of judgment and perspicacity.

I should also like to remind the house that owing to statutory limitations, and subject to Divine wish, I will not be with you for more