

*Anniversary of First Session of Parliament*  
 everywhere all across Canada. Reference is often made to unity in diversity and that is possible only if, in Vancouver as well as in St. John's, Newfoundland, the same treatment is given to the French minority, one of the founding peoples, as is often said of Canada in 1867.

That unity, Mr. Speaker, will ensure peace, security and freedom to all our people.

[*English*]

Since 1867, Mr. Speaker, this country has twice been defended by Canadians of all origins.

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

**Mr. Caouette:** While our young Canadians have had to serve both in this country and abroad to protect the things the Canadian people as a whole believed in, they have been forgotten too often. I think our parliamentary institution has the obligation and responsibility to think a little more about these Canadian youngsters of all origins who have served their country.

Our country is an outstanding one; everyone agrees with that. Our parliamentary institution has been given the task of maintaining in this land of ours peace and prosperity, and is responsible for creating an economic climate that will permit the realization of true national unity. I do not mean unity in words alone, but a true national unity which will serve the best interests of our people and the future of this great country of Canada.

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, during the past months we have had a great many activities and events across this nation which have reminded us of the fact that 100 years ago the Canadian nation was born through the act of confederation. All of us have been inspired, and I am sure we are all glad we are Canadians. All these events were of great significance, but I believe this particular event we are commemorating is possibly of the greatest significance to us as Canadians. Therefore the members of this party join in recognizing and acknowledging the benefits and accomplishments of the parliamentary system which we have in Canada today. This is indeed an historic occasion, Mr. Speaker, and it is an honour to be a member of this parliament as we pause today to remember that 100 years ago the first session of Canada's first parliament was convened.

[*Mr. Caouette.*]

If the only criterion for determining whether or not an institution or a system should or should not be continued is newness, this institution which has served us for 100 years would now be discarded. If, however, durability and proven worth are the determining factors, I believe we should jealously guard our parliamentary system today and for generations to come.

Appreciating the heritage established by the mother of parliaments, and challenged by those who laid the foundations well and strong in this our own land, it is our hope that we who participate in this twenty seventh parliament of Canada will maintain standards of sincerity and service that will enhance its worth in the eyes of the nation and work effectively in the interests of Canada and the world.

• (3:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, like other hon. members of this house I listened with interest to the stirring words which have been spoken on this momentous occasion, words which have emphasized that the most important matter concerning us today is national unity.

As one whose paternal grandfather was a member of the first parliament of Canada I should be remiss in my duty if I did not now say a few words about an important subject which has not been mentioned. Wemyss Mackenzie Simpson, who sat in the first parliament of Canada and later became, as I recall, commissioner for Indian affairs, was given the task of drawing up many of the treaties with our native people throughout western Canada and particularly in Manitoba.

Much has been said about the rights and privileges of minorities in our country. I am sure you will understand that I and other hon. members of the house are concerned that the rights and privileges of some, particularly our native people, have been not only abrogated but done away with. Though the Indian people of Canada today have received many benefits which are not theirs by right under any treaty, rights and privileges which were granted to them under treaty are being abrogated.

This historic centennial event is an opportune occasion for members in this house—and I hope hon. members who follow us will feel this way also—to urge the government to discontinue acts by which treaties which were made earlier with these people are