

Sir John A. Macdonald

rights. But this does not mean that we have suffered from injustice for a hundred years; that is not true.

Mr. Speaker, the main idea behind the confederation over which Sir John A. Macdonald presided was unity in mutual respect of the elements constituting this confederation. To those who maintain today, in 1967, that the province of Quebec suffered injustices, I say this: those who, in the province of Quebec, maintain that Quebec had to contribute toward confederation without receiving anything in return are trouble makers and liars. True, like the other provinces, the province of Quebec had to contribute her share, to enter confederation, just as anybody has to pay his dues to belong to an organization. But if we had to pay our share to belong to confederation, we also benefited from confederation during the hundred years of its existence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, I feel reluctant to mention what is going on in certain areas of the province of Quebec, particularly in Montreal, where bombs go off, where abusive language is used toward everybody, where even self respect is gone. I am against such goings on on the part of young people, most of whom are under the spell of some educators or professors who came here from Marxist or other countries of Europe, Asia, from Algeria or from African countries, and who are teaching revolution to our young people.

And we see what is going on in 1967. Injustices are not committed by those we might suspect. In fact, in the heart of Montreal, they are committed by some young Montrealers. And they are the ones who will pay for this tomorrow. What will the price be, I do not know, but they will be held responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take up too much of the time of this house, but I am happy to say on behalf of my colleagues and myself, that we join with all those who, with dignity, respect and grateful remembrance, celebrate today this anniversary not as blind persons, but as reasonable and logical people, who can understand each other even if they do not share the same political views. We are happy to associate with all these people who are human beings, above political parties.

Sir John A. Macdonald was, first of all, a human being. Second, he was a great Canadian, responsible for a confederation

which, despite its defects, has been useful to the population as a whole.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*English*]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for all of us to join in the tributes which have already been paid to the memory of Sir John A. Macdonald. Certainly, speaking personally and on behalf of the members of our party, I regard it as an honour. I believe that as a master politician and a wise statesman, Sir John A. Macdonald was the instrument which led the people of Canada, and those who held elective office at that time one hundred years ago, into confederation. For this we today owe a great debt to Sir John A. Macdonald.

In Canada we may not worship heroes, but I believe it would be for our own good were we to pay just a little more attention to those who legitimately are the heroes of our heritage. Yes; we owe it to the past and to the future that to those who not only served their country well but who also in the destiny of their time and this nation served to forge and weld our country into the great dominion and nation which it has become, be properly and adequately recorded in the annals of our history.

There were other great men in Macdonald's day—Georges-Etienne Cartier, George Brown and others—but it was Sir John A. Macdonald who brought them together and led them. It was largely due to his efforts that political differences were put aside in favour of standing together on the fundamentals on which they agreed. There is a great lesson for us in this very fact. As I have read the records in the early *Hansards* of this Parliament, the records concerning the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences and the records of the legislatures of the early provinces, including those of Upper and Lower Canada, I find that Sir John A. Macdonald led those who served with him on the public scene one hundred years ago into three general areas of agreement which were basic to confederation and which are necessary and essential today.

The first of these was a determination that there should be a nation called Canada, separate and independent from all other nations. They held this determination in a mutual conviction. They were dedicated to it; they believed there was a destiny for this nation which at that time was only a subject of their own vision.