

The Address—Mr. Caccia

negotiate with other powerful trading countries or groups if we fail to put an end to our domestic problems?

• (1650)

We can find in our country the full measure of its force and energy only if we understand each other. And we will not achieve that understanding about which we are so anxious as long as we need interpreters to communicate among ourselves. As long as such aids are necessary, in this House or elsewhere, we shall remain strangers to each other.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to point out that our exports to French-speaking countries have increased four-fold since 1968. That fact shows that when referring to bilingualism, we are at the same time referring to our daily bread and butter.

I shall also deal with another aspect of Canadian life which seems to violently contrast with the state of mind of our time which bears the stamp of space exploration, scientific and technological discoveries, rapid growth, speedy development of communications all over the globe, the behaviour of provincial governments within the Canadian framework. For instance, we are being informed of the intentions of a province that pursues some restricted goals and individual interests, while taking no account of the rest of Canada, as if it were a state by itself, that considers that the federal government is spending too much in another province, that, finally, wishes to share all its natural resources while the other provinces oppose such a policy. No wonder that some people are asking themselves whether the provincial premiers really have at heart the interest of Canada as a whole and where our country would end if Ottawa allowed all those provincial bigwigs to have their way.

As federal members, Mr. Speaker, we consider that there are no frontiers. As representatives of the federal government we direct our efforts where they are needed. We lend money in places where there is unemployment or again we attend to the needs in the housing field. We are not doing it for New Brunswick, Quebec or Nova Scotia but for Canada as a whole. This is why we feel repulsion at anything that smacks of ethnic favouritism.

Provinces have a role to play in the attainment of Canadian unity. They must have a larger vision of the events instead of trying only to get money from the federal government; they must think and act with a view to attaining national objectives. If they are so convinced, they will work through the Canadian offices abroad instead of their own offices throughout the world.

That behaviour on the part of some of the provinces which set up their own offices abroad proves a lack of confidence in Canada. We see it again, Mr. Speaker, when the provincial treasurers refuse to cooperate with the federal government, when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) makes reasonable suggestions to co-ordinate the loans required to meet the needs of the provinces.

That is why, as we start a new year, we wonder where we are heading. For my part, Mr. Speaker, the answer is quite clear: We must endeavour to achieve that unity which will make us stronger and allow us to face the problems that will assail us from outside. We must stop our internal strifes; we must not tolerate provincial

barons who pursue aims contrary to the national interest. On that highway that leads to Canadian unity, the provinces can and must play a positive role.

In addition, the daily practice of bilingualism, and not only its acceptances by all Canadians, can and must play a unifying role. We must accelerate and not decelerate, Mr. Speaker. We must not wait for the next generation to do it for us. It may then be too late. A bilingual Canada implies a multi-cultural Canada. Fashioned of all those strengths, Canada will grow richer.

[English]

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I first join other hon. members of the House in offering you my sincere congratulations. In the short period I have been in the House, your tactfulness and fairness in presiding over sometimes stormy debates and question periods have impressed me greatly. I also want to congratulate the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) on his election as Deputy Speaker.

As a new member, I wish to say that it is a great honour for me to be in the House representing the people of the Moose Jaw constituency. I will do my utmost to represent them in a good and statesmanlike manner and not betray the trust they have placed in me.

I represent a constituency where there are people of all racial extractions. There are people who came to Canada from various parts of Europe before the turn of the century to take up homesteads. There are descendants of these homesteaders, as well as newer immigrants—people of Ukrainian, Romanian, Russian, Finnish, English and Scottish extraction, as well as many others, all living together in harmony and proud to be Canadians. They are people who, while celebrating their national holidays and retaining much of their culture, place Canada first and foremost. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to represent these people.

If any hon. members have travelled on the Trans-Canada highway through Saskatchewan, they will find, if they start at a point just east of the city of Moose Jaw and travel west to the town of Herbert, that this approximates the southern boundary of my constituency. The constituency stretches north from both Moose Jaw and Herbert to a line drawn east and west approximately 20 miles south of the city of Saskatoon. It is a large constituency, covering approximately 9,000 square miles, with a population of roughly 62,000. It contains some of the finest farmland in the west and, while a good deal of wheat and coarse grains are produced in the area, there is a large livestock industry. Potash and sodium sulphate are also mined in the area.

Within the boundaries of my constituency lies the Gardiner dam, an earthfilled dam some 210 feet in height, extending across the South Saskatchewan River valley some three miles. This dam is among the largest of its kind in the world. It dams the waters of the South Saskatchewan River and has created a man-made lake of mountain water some 140 miles in length, 185 feet in depth at the dam, with a shoreline of 475 miles. The lake is known as Diefenbaker Lake in honour of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) who as leader of the Conservative government in 1958 had the

[Mr. Caccia.]