

*The Address—Mr. Fortin*

today is of other than French or English origin. In other words, the Canadian family has been enlarged in recent years. In other provinces of Canada, people have entered our country and have given us the benefit of their skills. In addition, they have allowed us to benefit from their wealth, for the economic development of our country.

I am convinced that with the co-operation of all men of goodwill, this national unity about which there is so much talk is so attainable a goal that it is on the verge of becoming a total and complete fact. If we, Canadians of all origins, examine the means at our disposal, that is the means we all share in common, we realize that there is but one race, the Canadian race.

It will be remembered that, in former times, Canadian history was taught in a certain way in some places, and in another elsewhere. Nowadays, our history, relating the facts as they happened, has resulted in our being more united. It will be recalled that, in 1867, great Canadians such as Macdonald, Cartier and Brown understood one another and put in common their goodwill, talents and energy, in order to set up the Canadian confederation of which we are so proud today.

Neither Canadians of English origin, nor those of French origin, could have alone achieved confederation. The contribution of both was required. This was the beginning: the beginning of the unity for which we must always toil and toward which we must always strive.

We also have another thing in common, the effort that each Canadian makes for the cultural, political and economic development of this country. In the field of economy, we notice, in our province, the great developments that are achieved in the western part of the country. We are also close enough to the maritimes to see the gigantic expansion that is taking place there. We, in the province of Quebec, have witnessed a complete transformation of our economy, often due to the new Canadians who have come in our midst.

In the political field, a mere glance around this house reveals that all Canadians, of whatever origin, have sent here members of different origins, who are a new asset to this parliament.

We also have another thing in common: our common effort during the last war. When we hear today of the Royal Canadian Regiment, one name is always mentioned in the same breath, that of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, what I will say now may be a little less important, but it is worth mentioning. There are also these things that are contributing to the emergence of a truly Canadian type. For instance, when a stranger sees the picture of a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or a maple leaf, or a beaver, what else than Canada can he think of? He does not think of a certain part of Canada, of Canadians of certain origins, but of the whole country. However, it remains that inside this Canadian picture, there is a province which seems to us a little different from the others, because it has special laws and a somewhat different educational system. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I express quite frankly and quite sincerely the true feeling of the province of Quebec.

The province of Quebec is like any other province, it wishes that complete unity be achieved in the country; it is her most ardent wish, and Quebec will work without respite to this end. Obviously, today, the means of communication enable us to have more frequent and immediate contact with Canadians of other origins. We are glad of this and I am convinced that on leaving this house, if all members of this parliament believe that Canada is only one country, that Canadians, whether they speak one language or the other, are all Canadians, this belief will grow and all Canada will share it.

Mr. Speaker, before resuming my seat, I should like to quote from a book I read not so long ago, a creed that was submitted by the author to our Canadian youth. It reads:

I believe in Canada, proud of her past, happy over her present and confident in her future.

I believe in the British commonwealth of nations, among which we have always found freedom, and outside of which our national life would not enjoy so much independence.

I believe that our future will be even brighter than we can possibly imagine.

Let us make this creed ours. It expresses the pride of our people and its ardent wish to see Canada take first place among free nations, where it is so good to live.

(Text):

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Mr. Pearson the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Diefenbaker the house adjourned at 4.34 p.m.