

Co-operation and tolerance are not one-way streets. An English-speaking Canadian must feel at home everywhere in Canada, even in Quebec, but a French-speaking Canadian must feel at home not only in Quebec but in all the provinces of Canada. That does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that all English-speaking Canadians must learn French, no more than all French-speaking Canadians must learn English. No. But that means that within their respective provinces, if Canadians really accept the fact of co-existence or the circumstances in which they should live, they ought to learn, at all costs, to respect others who do not speak their language, who do not have the same culture, and I say that not only in my own province but in every province.

I think that the central government which has no business interfering with provincial matters, could at least make suggestions when federal-provincial conferences take place. It could suggest to the provinces which have trouble understanding the situation, to exert at least tolerance, fairness and understanding towards French-speaking or English-speaking Canadians.

This means that steps must be taken so that all Canadians may be fully respected 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.

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

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, 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.