

the clear intention of those who established Confederation, that a genuine balance between federal and provincial governments should be maintained. The growth of our country since 1867 enforces the validity of this intention. Quite apart from the special problem of relations between French and English speaking people in Canada, the size and complexity of Canada justify our federal system of government. If the provinces are to play their proper role within this system, they must continue to have real and effective responsibility for the important spheres of government which have been assigned to them. They must continue to attract capable men to their legislatures. They have a vital contribution to give to the life and welfare of the people, and they must continue to be in a position to make it. Equally, the federal government must be capable of giving leadership and assuming responsibility in matters of national concern. When it lacks the authority necessary to perform this purely national function, it must take the initiative in making arrangements to secure it, without, of course, and I emphasize this, interfering with any of those provincial or minority rights which are at the very basis of our national structure.

We cannot achieve the proper balance between federal and provincial governments by any single definition of responsibility which will be valid for all time. If all the provinces, together with the federal government, are to play their full and proper part, there must be a continual process of adjustment between federal and provincial governments, conducted on the basis of a desire on all sides to contribute to the welfare of the Canadian people as a whole. Above all, we must repudiate the untrue and dangerous doctrine that there is some difference between a Canadian who is represented in Ottawa and one represented in a provincial capital.

The establishment of this nation was a great act of faith on the part of men who believed that the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our people could overcome the cultural, political and physical barriers which impeded our unity. We have found it a bigger task than even the Fathers of Confederation realized to build a state from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and along the northern boundaries of the United States; to populate its hinterland, to develop its resources, and to maintain its unity against the strains and stresses of the modern world. In seeking to accomplish this task we have had to face and overcome problems that the Fathers of Confederation never dreamed of. If we have met success, it has been because national policies have represented a careful and considered balancing of political and economic forces; because we have recognized and understood sectional and minority differences and yet have resolved that these differences should not be permitted to prevent the formation of a Canada which would be greater than its parts.

In the field of foreign relations, we have also endeavoured to hold that middle ground which lies somewhere between unintelligent and unimaginative insistence on our national sovereignty at the one extreme, and vague and impractical support for internationalism at the other. We have made it increasingly clear that we are prepared to cooperate with other nations in realistic measures for the development of government on an international basis, but we have not forgotten that the best is sometimes the enemy of the good. The high reputation which Canada enjoys abroad is, I think, due in part to this practical approach which we have taken to the problem of international relations. This has characterized our attitude towards the United Nations, where we have tried to concentrate our attention on those functions of the organization which give promise of immediate helpful results, while never losing sight of the ultimate high purpose for which it was founded and which it must one day achieve.

A good example of this pragmatic and practical approach to international affairs is found, I think, in our attitude toward the North Atlantic Treaty. In the absence of a strong and workable supranational legal and political order the threat of aggression is always present whether it originates in Germany, Italy, or Japan, as before the recent war; or whether it emerges in a somewhat different form as at present. It is unfortunately