

distinct languages and distinct cultures as well. Those are two things which make this country unique and different.

[*Translation*]

The belle province of Quebec is different, what with its distinct society and the reality of the French language. Laws are different in the Province of Quebec. Culture, the Catholic religion, a lot of things are different.

[*English*]

As well as the differences with our aboriginal people. In addition, we have linguistic duality in terms of making sure we protect the linguistic minorities and help them to grow.

I see the minister across the way from Montreal who is responsible for the Official Languages Act and is a spokesperson in many ways within government for the English minority in the province of Quebec. It is also important that we have roughly one million francophones outside Quebec who need some more constitutional guarantees if this country is to stay together.

In addition, we have to make sure that we have some flexibility in this country for the other provinces as well. I do not share Clyde Wells' point of view that every province must be treated with absolute equality. I do not share that point of view, for there are legitimate differences not only in Quebec but in the other provinces as well. I see the member for Beaver River here. Her province of Alberta has some different arrangements with the federal government from what we have in Saskatchewan. I will give two examples of what I mean.

The family allowance legislation applies universally in this country for eight provinces. The two exceptions are the province of Alberta and the province of Quebec, with different arrangements with Ottawa in terms of how family allowances are delivered in those two provinces. And so be it. There are some slightly different arrangements. That is Canada. That is part of our flexibility.

Another example is the collection of taxes in this country. One province, the province of Quebec, collects its own personal income tax. Three provinces collect their own corporate income tax. Quebec and Ontario have done so for a long time. In 1981 the province of Alberta decided to do the same thing so it collects its

own corporate income tax. That is what we have, a co-jurisdiction between the federal and provincial governments in many areas of Canada. If we can have that kind of accommodation, that is good for this country in terms of recognizing our diversity and differences and, instead of letting those differences divide us, having those differences unite us and flower in this country and make it all to better Canada. I think that is within the realm of reality.

I remember very well when I was a university student listening, with admiration, to the talk in this country about co-operative federalism by then Prime Minister Lester Pearson and opposition leaders like Tommy Douglas and Robert Stanfield. They talked about co-operative federalism, recognizing our differences and building on those differences and building on that diversity, and using that to unite this country into a country which has many cultures, two great languages, and the first nations, aboriginal people.

That is what we must do. We must come up with a way of making those accommodations and building that national consensus because, if we do not do that, it is bye-bye to this country.

[*Translation*]

And the hon. member is right, this is good-bye Canada.

[*English*]

It is really tragic in this debate that we have had some rigidity from people like Clyde Wells on one side and the Prime Minister on the other side. I think a great number of Canadians were looking for an accommodation and looking for a compromise.

I am very concerned about this country, about the future of Canada. I think the government is destroying Canada. It is destroying this country, not only in terms of constitutional change but also in terms of the national institutions of Canada such as the CBC, the post office, VIA Rail and the trade deal with the United States. Instead of trying to strengthen and build the links from east to west and north in this country, it is building more and more links between the north and the south, into the United States, and importing into Canada more values from the United States of America.