

Fourth, many cultures from around the world have made and are making Canada the best place in the world to live.

Hyphenated Canadianism is divisive. My own heritage is that of a United Empire Loyalist. My ancestors came from all over Europe, yet I am a Canadian, not a Dutch or German Canadian, or even a European Canadian, but a Canadian of European descent.

Canadians want a country that reflects the diversity of the regions and upholds the integrity of the whole.

• (1830)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member could file the rest of his speech with the Clerk.

Mr. Vankoughnet: All Canadians are very distinct in that they live in a society like no other certainly in North America, nor for that matter in the world.

However, the defining of what might make and what we might do separately, the respect for human rights, the freedom of speech, social solidarity, the harmony and the right of the individual to satisfy his or her basic needs, an attack on any part is destruction of what we know as a whole. We must not be a nation of navel gazers but we must offer objective assessments of what changes will be and a strong assessment of what changes should take place in a united Canada that are necessary in what is certainly a changing world.

Bilingualism in Canada should not mean all Canadians or all regions of Canada should speak two languages.

However, small post offices for example in my riding just this past week have been told that they cannot have their income tax forms because they do not happen to have the French forms because of printing delays. People in my riding feel that this is an aggravation and was not the intention of this regulation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member can file the balance of his speech with the Clerk.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I too wish to participate in this debate on constitutional renewal. The purpose is an agreement reached among the respective House Leaders of the different political parties in this House.

The Constitution

Over the last number of months, since the issue has been seized with the special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons, I have met with many of my constituents who have voiced real concerns to me about the constitutional process and, more importantly, the substance with which we are dealing.

Many of my constituents believe that a number of the 28 proposals just ought not to be on the table for discussion. I would say a vast majority of my constituents with whom I have spoken believe it to be important that we as parliamentarians resolve the issue of constitutional renewal as expeditiously as possible. That is not to suggest that we expedite the process for the mere sake of expediting the process. It means that we do so with prudence. It means that we do so with sincerity. In the end, members of my constituency want to have this matter resolved and resolved forthwith.

When I travel the streets, when I go to the shopping malls, to Tim Horton's for a coffee, to the Legion to speak or at any of the functions which I attend, I have yet to have a constituent come up to me and say: "You know, I do not like that distinct society". I have yet to have a constituent come up to me and say: "You know, the declaratory power is kind of vague" or "I do not fully appreciate the consequential effect of the meaning of the inherent self-right of our aboriginal peoples". I have never received representations. I have never been questioned by my constituents on such specifics. I have been asked repeatedly where we are going with regard to the Constitution. We want Quebec. More importantly, we want the people of Quebec to remain members of the Canadian family.

I say this to my colleague opposite and I say so sincerely. The majority of my constituents want to see the people of Quebec remain in a renewed and united Canada. What they have been telling me about constitutional renewal is to get on with the task at hand.

I have in the past differed with Quebec governments and that may continue in the future, as it should, on whatever the issue may be. Surely as Canadians we can come to appreciate our differences, whatever they may be, wherever they may be in this country. The fellowship and the understanding that we as anglophone Canadians