

sionals, it does not replace the careful study, thorough research and disciplined thinking needed to make sensible and effective plans for a country's future.

So tonight I will not answer the question - what if Quebec were to separate? - except to say this, that there is no way for Quebec to separate from Canada. For what would be left would not be Canada. Canada itself would be destroyed. Would it be Canada without the Gulf of St. Lawrence, without the Rock of Quebec, without Montreal, without most of its French-speaking population? With the Atlantic Provinces separated from Ontario and the West by a new and different country? Not in my mind, nor, I think, in yours. What you are here to discuss, I suggest, is "Quebec's place in Canada", not "Canada and Quebec". This will be your pre-occupation as your seminar proceeds, tonight my task is to share with you some of my thoughts about the state of the nation, about the Canadian unity in its broadest sense.

It has become a cliché that the United States is a melting-pot and Canada a mosaic. People also talk of the Canadian tapestry wherein many different coloured threads make up a coherent pattern. While I take no exception to that particular image sometimes I think that today we have turned the tapestry to the wall and are all staring at the confusion of knots and ganglia trying to deduce from them the pattern that is clearly to be seen when we look at it from the proper angle. Sir Wilfrid Laurier likened Canada to a cathedral which presents its essential unity although stone remains stone, wood remains wood and stained glass retains its colours.

A mosaic, a tapestry, a cathedral. None of these symbols quite suits our condition because none is a product of organic growth. They are works of vision, imagination, skill, disciplined effort, even of faith, but not living, growing and changing as is Canada. No one generation owns Canada, each succeeding generation must see itself as the trustee at once for what has been handed down from the past and for what is to be handed on to the next generation. Canada came into being as an act of political will, it has grown and prospered by the will of Canadians. More than ever before its survival in identity and purpose relies equally upon the will of us all.

The giants of the past, MacDonald, Laurier - dare I add Mackenzie King? - will not come to our rescue. For giants are only of the past. There are never giants of the present. In their time MacDonald, Laurier and King were as fallible and as widely and bitterly criticized as a Diefenbaker, a Pearson or a Trudeau. Leaders we have and must have. They leave their stamp upon their times but more often in a free society, they give direction and effect to the expressed will of the people,