

*Sir John A. Macdonald*

and to be treated as equals in an equal partnership between the two founding races. It seems to me that we in this Parliament could do more than we are doing to promote that kind of understanding and good will in Canada today.

Sir John A. Macdonald also recognized the problem of retaining a Canadian identity, living as we are alongside the richest and most powerful nation in the world, not by being anti-American but by being pro-Canadian. This same problem is still with us, not in terms of the fear of military invasion but in terms of economic and cultural assimilation. I believe it is possible for us in our day and generation to meet this problem, and to meet it successfully just as did the men of 1867.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have other problems that Sir John A. Macdonald did not have. We are living in a period of social upheaval arising out of a great scientific revolution. We live in a period of rising expectations. We live in a time when men and women in our own country and in all parts of the earth want to benefit from the products of modern technology, and want to use modern science not only to improve their standard of living but to improve the quality of life. I would only hope that on this anniversary of the birth of Canada's first Prime Minister we in this parliament, and all Canadians, will use this occasion to look to the past with pride, to the present with determination, and to the future with unbounded confidence in what Canada can be and, by God's grace, will be.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, paying tribute to Sir John A. Macdonald is a pleasant duty in the circumstances and we fully endorse the statements made earlier by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), as well as by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas).

Sir John A. Macdonald, born in 1815, was actually elected prime minister of Canada from the foundation of confederation over which he presided and which he designed, along with other Canadian patriots of the two main ethnic groups, the French speaking and the English speaking Canadians.

● (3:10 p.m.)

As far back as 1867, when the Canadian confederation was created, Sir John A. Macdonald recognized the existence of two different and separate segments of our nation: the English segment and the French segment.

[Mr. Douglas.]

That is why he associated himself at that time with Sir Georges-Étienne Cartier to draft the Canadian constitution which is now called the British North America Act.

Then Mr. Speaker, like all those around him, Sir John A. Macdonald saw the importance of drafting a constitution acceptable to both the English speaking and French speaking groups. The ultimate goal of Sir John A. Macdonald was to achieve out of disunity, out of misunderstanding, the unity of Canada. For instance, although Upper Canada and Lower Canada were at each other's throat, Sir John A. Macdonald was advocating the union of those two segments, those two groups to build a united nation, a strong nation, a nation which could see to the development of Canada's natural resources not only in 1867 but in the future.

Mr. Speaker, if since 1867 misunderstandings have occurred, Sir John A. Macdonald is not responsible, the constitution or the confederation is not to blame as much as certain elements, certain individuals who have put their own personal views above everything else instead of following faithfully the spirit of confederation and of the Canadian constitution.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, this brings me to say that in 1967, on the day we are celebrating Sir John A. Macdonald's 152nd birthday, we find people, particularly in the province of Quebec—the province where 75 federal Members of Parliament come from—who seek to spread discord, misunderstanding, error and lies by trying to affix on the back of cars small plates that say that confederation was and is one hundred years of injustice for the province of Quebec.

Now, when Sir John A. Macdonald and the others who were with him founded this confederation in 1867, their idea was not to create injustice for Quebec, for Ontario, for the other provinces, but they set their hearts upon giving and insuring the most complete justice to all provinces which then united into confederation.

Mr. Speaker, there have undoubtedly been cases of injustice since the beginning of confederation, but it cannot be said that we have suffered from injustice for a hundred years. French Canadians in Quebec have continued the struggle for a hundred years, and there have been some memorable battles. It is true that in our province, like in others, there have been battles for the recognition of our