

formed by a revolution of spirit will not be a Canada without disagreement. Passionate argument in the open over matters of consequence and aimed at peaceful resolution is one of the glories of our system here in Canada. Indeed, I see the vehemence of the debate over the Constitution as an awakening of passions rooted for all of us on all sides of this House in a deep love for this country. Who would want to argue in so lively a way over something worthless? And, to be sure, argument will not end with the passage of this resolution. Circumstances change, attitudes change and constitutions change. Nothing that is truly alive is cemented immovably in time.

The hon. member for Simcoe North mentioned that in 1790 the state of Virginia had 23 per cent or 25 per cent of the population of the 13 colonies. He pointed out that in subsequent years all the other 12 states became more populous than Virginia and that under our Constitution "Virginia" would always have a veto power. I believe this Constitution will change before 200 more years pass. It took us 114 years to get this one turned over.

**Mr. Lambert:** Why put it in there?

**Mr. Parent:** I believe what we should be looking at is not only a country that is growing but also a country that is flourishing, a country of which we and our children can well be proud of being part.

Argument will be required to establish the shape of that document in the years to come, but we must remember that argument is not the heart of the matter; it is merely the mechanism. Commitment and respect and love of country are the heart of the matter.

Outside this country there are no hyphenated Canadians. There are simply Canadians. There are no French Canadians, English Canadians, Hungarian Canadians or Japanese Canadians, but Canadians. That is how we are looked upon outside this country.

Is there a separatist sickness stirring in the west? I was out west, and I can tell hon. members that there are feelings of anger and frustration. I experienced them first-hand, but if there really is this separatist sickness, as our global neighbours look on us what is this compared with our united pursuit of excellence in all fields?

● (2050)

Is there a premier in Quebec who would like to build a fence around his portion of Canada? Outside this country he barely merits mention compared to the heroes and remarkable people who live here; the Ken and Pat Taylors, the Terry Foxes, who right this minute is fighting for his life, the Karen Kains and the Legers of today, or the Frederick Bantings, Norman Bethunes, Billy Bishops, Marshall McLuhans, and the Nellie McClungs of yesterday.

Where are the Rocky Mountains; not in British Columbia or Alberta but in Canada. Where is Niagara Falls? It is in Canada. Where is the Beaufort Sea, the St. Lawrence Seaway

### *The Constitution*

and Louisbourg? They are all in Canada. They are in provinces, but they belong to all of us. They are here in our Canada and, by God, they are ours.

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

**Mr. Parent:** Inside this country it could be the same. There is no need to reduce our cultural richness to averages. We do not all have to sing the same song. There is good reason to acknowledge the qualities unique to Canada which transcend political boundaries and political parties and make us one with our fellow citizens. Such are the qualities of the enlightened love of nation of which I speak. We perhaps back away when we speak of love of country. Perhaps these are words which should not be used by parliamentarians. Perhaps we should use the jargon of the bureaucrats in order to hide our feelings and not let anyone know what this land means to us. For me this love of which I speak, this nationalism, this love of country, is a statement which I have carried with me all of my adult life.

Each and every Canadian has the power to contribute mightily to this revolution of spirit. Let us not waste such potential by dividing our energies and battling among ourselves. Such is the importance I place on the constitutional resolution. It has been the unique opportunity of this Parliament to give it shape. Now it is our historic duty to give it a permanent place in the very soul of the Canadian nation.

Some three years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was at a dinner which was attended by the present Speaker of the other place. I take the liberty to name him—the Hon. Jean Marchand. At that dinner he was asked if he had his whole political career over again what changes he would make. He said if he had it all to do over again he would take one hour out of every week and he would speak to one of us, one of his colleagues, and we could tell him about our Canada and he could tell us about his. Perhaps if we did take one hour out of every week, we did talk about our Canada together, sharing our Canada without yelling at one another, and if we could truly sit down and listen to one another, perhaps then there would be the Canada that all of us visualize. After looking carefully into my own heart and to my own soul this is the significance I have of Canada, a Canada founded and growing and flourishing under God. Indeed, I believe that God is watching over and looking after Canada. I now ask myself a rhetorical question after these few minutes of sharing and I ask you, all of you, my colleagues, is my vision of Canada so very much different than yours?

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

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Parent). He ended on a note which many of us on this side in the official opposition subscribe to. In the few remarks he made toward the end of his speech he recognized that there is a God. We in this party believe in the supremacy of God. We believe the concept should be entrenched. We will welcome him to join with us in opposition when the final vote is taken on this constitutional resolution which is not complete.