

Michener. In paying tribute and extending my best wishes to the new Governor General, His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Jules Léger, I cannot help quoting from his inaugural address delivered in this very chamber on January 14.

Like him, I am a descendant of "... generations of honest and unassuming people who have always been faithful to their homeland, having no other and seeking no other".

The Acadians, established in their small part of the country since 1604, four years before the founding of Quebec, had what amounts to a difficult life. There is no need to go over their history. However, it is worth noting that, despite their hardships, not only have they survived but they developed to the point where this minority has made tremendous progress and has today by right a place of its own within the Canadian society.

For the Acadians, the fight for what they are entitled to is far from over. There is no end in sight in their efforts for the recognition and safekeeping of their vested interests. How much was accomplished, though, in a hundred years? Today, in New Brunswick, not more than a handful of retrogrades are still trying to turn back the clock of history and bring us back to a long gone time.

As did the federal government, New Brunswick adopted an Official Languages Act which, like the federal law, was passed unanimously. I am most convinced that both laws, which complement one another, were adopted in a spirit of national unity. However, I know perfectly well that good will cannot be legislated.

And yet, while the country as a whole accepts the philosophy of official bilingualism, while there remains but a small number of extremists who keep on arguing and reviving old fears, we are faced at this time with another dangerous concept which is just as pernicious, namely, that of French unilingualism in a Canadian province.

Acadians are not the only ones who are threatened by this dangerous concept; all French-speaking Canadians outside Quebec are threatened, and these minorities would be greatly endangered if Quebec were to adopt this policy.

I am well aware of the fact that in some circles in Quebec—I underline, in some circles, not everywhere—people do not care much about French-speaking minorities outside Quebec. They even predict their complete assimilation in a more or less distant future. However, I am also aware of the fact that the survival of French minorities does not depend on logic alone. If such were the case, they would have disappeared long ago.

This survival is a survival of the heart, intensely sought and paid at the price of extreme sacrifice; for, as every one knows, "The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of".

The disappearance of French-speaking minorities outside Quebec could be predicted and supported with the most convincing scientific evidence, but I would continue to believe that not only will they not disappear, but that they will develop in a Canada more united and stable than ever.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Robichaud: I do not believe either in cultural sovereignty—if I have well understood that term—nor in any ghetto whatever, because I am convinced that if the

rights of English-speaking citizens in Quebec were denied and if the concept of a French unilingual Quebec was to take root, then the cultural and linguistic future of more than one million French-speaking citizens outside Quebec would be seriously jeopardized.

Moreover, the French-speaking minorities outside Quebec also belong to the great international community called the "francophonie."

If the French-speaking minorities need a culturally strong Quebec—and that is as it should be—we must not on the other hand disregard their substantial cultural contribution to the development of the francophonie. Their customs, their background, their way of living, in short everything which makes them different from Quebec, are factors which are not always stressed adequately.

Shall we start all over again these sterile discussions presided over by prophets of evil for whom even the idea of a parliamentary democracy in a bilingual federation is an aberration? It would be better to remind them of the words spoken by a wise Frenchman:

Friends who predict evil for you end up by wishing you evil in order to prove they were right.

But I am not overly alarmed, because the proverbial good sense of the Quebecers will take this into consideration and, furthermore, we must also take note that the Quebec government is dealing with the matter in a level-headed manner.

[English]

Honourable senators, it would be fitting, I am sure, to ask for your indulgence and to devote a few moments to a subject which was and is still very close to me, that of the International Joint Commission. This very effective institution was created by virtue of a treaty signed in 1909 between Canada and the United States. The main purpose of this treaty was:

—to prevent disputes regarding the use of boundary waters and to make provision for the adjustment and settlement of all questions arising in future between Canada and the United States along their common frontier which involve the rights, obligations or interests of either in relation to the other or to the inhabitants of the other.

Pollution of waters was dealt with briefly but unequivocally in Article IV of the Treaty:

—boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health and property of the other.

The Commission is a permanent body composed of three Canadians and three Americans. The current chairman, who took my place in Canada a few weeks ago, is Professor Maxwell Cohen of McGill University. The other two Canadian representatives are Mr. Bernard Beaupré, a sanitary engineer from Montreal, and Mr. Keith Henry, a consulting engineer from Vancouver. As to their American counterparts, the chairman is Mr. Christian A. Herter, Jr., the son of the former Secretary of State of the United States. His colleagues are Mr. Charles R. Ross a professor of law and economics at the University of Vermont, and Mr. Victor J. Smith from Illinois, a publisher and businessman.