

*National Unity*

**Mr. Grafftey:** I don't care. This is an important debate and he should be in his place.

**Mr. Breau:** He is busy with his duties.

**Mr. Grafftey:** I did not schedule those. If he is serious about this debate he should be in his seat. I say, if the Prime Minister and his party make this a partisan issue by excluding members on my side of the House from such a parliamentary committee, we shall be in deep trouble. I believe, as speakers before me have said, that the highest body in this land should have something concrete, constructive, and ongoing to say about keeping our union together. My position is the same as it was ten years ago, and I say the government should accept the amendment right away. Since the Prime Minister is not present, perhaps someone else on the front bench opposite can rise and, in a spirit of bi-partisanship, say, "The government accepts this amendment."

I say to the Prime Minister and his minions, you do not have to be a Liberal to be a good Canadian.

**An hon. Member:** Oh! Come on!

**Mr. Grafftey:** "Come on," says the hon. member. That is how many of us feel.

**An hon. Member:** I thought you said you didn't care.

**Mr. Grafftey:** I quit your party, after having been a member of it for five years in the province of Quebec, because I discovered that the Liberal party says, "The Liberal party first, Canada second." I joined a party which says, "Canada first, the Progressive Conservative party second." Let us have a little more national unity and a little less Liberal unity in this country. I believe, for the good of Canada, this parliamentary committee must be established.

[*Translation*]

**An hon. Member:** You are a clown.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Agreed, but to be a clown, one has to be a Liberal!

I feel we should have such a joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate, with members from all political parties and not only from the Liberal party. We must have such a committee here in the largest forum in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking necessarily for my own party but as a member of parliament, and we have the opportunity to really speak out tonight and tomorrow. Therefore, I hope that after the next election, the new government will call a great constitutional conference with the participation of every province and political party, in order to draft a constitution made in Canada, by Canadians and for Canadians.

[*English*]

We are here, putting our constructive thoughts forward.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Why not?

[*Mr. Grafftey.*]

**Mr. Grafftey:** Surely the government House leader believes we must set up a joint parliamentary committee to examine the subject matter. How in the world can you exclude members on my side of the House from this ongoing discussion, unless the Prime Minister wants to make it a partisan issue?

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Of course he does.

**An hon. Member:** You heard him, didn't you?

**Mr. Grafftey:** Mr. Speaker, I want to see action, not speeches. Let the Prime Minister put his actions where his mouth is and convene an all-party, joint parliamentary committee to examine this question. Otherwise how could it be a non-partisan examination?

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

**Mr. Grafftey:** Because of present conditions in the country I get letters, as I am sure other members do, asking what I think about special status. I will tell you what I think. Far too many politicians at both levels of government have been bandying the word around irresponsibly. What do I think of special status for Quebec? I do not. I think we are a country of many regions. We all have our special aspirations within this great federal union. We all have our special problems. I suppose that in Saskatchewan the fisheries problem is not the same as it is in our coastal regions.

Let us be forthright and responsible when we talk about special status or ask questions about it. It is incumbent on those in public life at all levels of government to use language responsibly, especially when there are not literal translations for certain phrases d'une langue à l'autre.

I have been concerned over the years, when discussing the question of national unity, with the notion that we must have either/or, that you cannot have strong provinces and a strong federal authority at the same time. The Prime Minister and his supporters often say it must be either one or the other. He tells Quebecers they must settle either for the status quo or for Lévesque. They have no other choice. If that confrontation continues much longer, we shall be in deep trouble. There is another choice, a responsible middle ground which cannot be called a compromise.

The Prime Minister delivered an incredible speech in the House this afternoon, eight months after the November 15 election, a speech for which, if I were a professor at McGill and the Prime Minister were a freshman, I would give a C minus. I will say now, and say over and over again, I am sick and tired of hearing it said that those who do not accept the Liberal option are second class Canadians.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman whose allotted time has expired.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, first of