

*The Address—Mr. Nielsen*

all the other divisive policies. Time and time again the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) has spoken about one Canada. What are we getting? We are getting divisive and destructive policies. Above all, in this year of the centenary of our confederation, as I have said before, instead of opting out we require opting in, recognition of the existence of two cultural groups, the founders of the original confederation. We require for all French speaking Canada, not just Quebec, an emphasis on the recognition of the cultural identity and cultural integrity upon which our country must be built to survive.

The Prime Minister is the originator of the two nations theory. Here is what he said at La Malbaie, Quebec, on August 17, 1963:

At this time when we are preparing to celebrate our centennial, it is advisable that confederation should be reshaped to meet the requirements of the present hour. We want a nineteen sixty-three model.

In his speech yesterday he threw this completely overboard. The answer is that under the leadership of the Prime Minister the Liberal government consistently has pursued a wrong and dangerous course on the question of national unity, since assuming office. They have opted out; they have created two nations; they have set Quebec apart, and they have provided the machinery whereby Mr. Lesage has signed international treaties. Now they see the end of the road. At the end of the road is dissolution. They draw back in fear, like the Hindu snake charmer who has lost his flute. They have no alternative to offer. This government, following the Prime Minister's leadership, has created a Frankenstein monster of division and discord.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I hear jeers. Let those who jeer listen to another statement of the Prime Minister made at La Malbaie in 1963 when he enunciated the motherland theory. He said this:

I know, as well as you do, that the province of Quebec is different from others, because, while being a province of Canada, it is the motherland of people living in other provinces.

Constitutionally it is the federal government, not any one of the provinces, which is the defender of minorities. If we are to adopt the principle espoused by the Prime Minister on that occasion, then we must say that it is logical that the government of Manitoba should concern itself about Ukrainians in Montreal, that the government of Ontario

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must take an interest in English speaking citizens in Saskatoon. What a crazy quilt of national chaos this conjures up. This is the motherland theory unveiled by the Prime Minister in 1963.

In the same speech the Prime Minister said that he would work to establish a status of equality between the two partners—Quebec and Ottawa. What that status of equality was, never has been explained. According to Premier Johnson it never existed. All along, the Prime Minister and his government have committed the blundering error of failing to distinguish between Quebec, a province, and French speaking Canada, a cultural entity recognized in the constitution of 1867 but not necessarily identified with Quebec, any more than English Canada can be identified with Ontario. Is any English speaking person living in Montreal—I ask this question of the hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey)—any less English speaking because he lives in Montreal?

This kind of Balkanization of which we have been warned by the Leader of the Opposition, has been deliberately fostered by the dangerous, destructive and divisive policies of the Prime Minister and this government. The Prime Minister bumbled into an impossible position and now is trying, with the rather desperate assistance of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) to extricate himself. Meanwhile Canada's unity has suffered and is suffering irreparable damage. That speech at Murray Bay was the classic unfolding of the co-operative federalism doctrine, embodying the theory of two nations, a blueprint for disaster. The Prime Minister took the attitude that Quebec in fact is a separate and distinct political entity, like Switzerland or Ghana, and dealt with it at arm's length from then on, as though dealing with the ambassadors of a foreign state. He forgot that Quebec is part of Canada. It is time he took off the rose coloured glasses.

● (8:50 p.m.)

For three years there has been a concerted attempt in the Liberal press to make black look like white and to cover up the dangerous and damaging errors of this government. The fact is that when this government gave to Mr. Lesage the right to deal with foreign states it dealt national unity a blow from which it has not recovered. The right it created for Mr. Lesage it now withholds from Premier Johnson, and unity deteriorates. This government grovelled before Mr. Lesage and gave him everything he wanted—everything for