

Premier Drew of Ontario and Premier Duplessis of Quebec have a correspondingly greater share of responsibility.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Why do they not show it?

Mr. CASSELMAN: They do.

Mr. HEON: We shall come to that later.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HEON: Will the hon. member listen to this, please? Public men, real he-men, who speak for seven-twelfths of the population of Canada are certainly entitled to as much respect and consideration as those who speak on behalf of half a million. In the case of the Hon. Mr. Duplessis—and I am not asking the house to share my opinion—he is most ably directing the destinies of the province of Quebec. He finds himself as premier of a province—and I ask hon. gentleman opposite and all hon. gentlemen in the house to remember this—wherein dwells the bulk of the French-Canadian population of Canada, and there are certain and most important items to be remembered. Quebec is Quebec. The premier of any party who is elected in the province of Quebec must, does and should always remember this: he is the elected premier of a province where there are certain particular and most important traditional, cultural and racial factors which have to be taken into account. If hon. gentlemen could have read, as have I and all the French-Canadian members on both sides of the house, the editorials in French-Canadian newspapers, resolutions passed by national societies, youth societies, municipal councils, and school boards, approving the premier of Quebec, possibly all of us here would not be so hasty—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What do Jehovah's Witnesses say?

Mr. HEON: I want to tell my hon. friend this. I am prepared to discuss that subject at any moment, but he is too broadminded to bring that matter into the house at this time. Later on, if he wishes to, I shall be glad to discuss it.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): Page the hon. member for Lake Centre.

(Translation):

Mr. HEON: Has any other hon. member said that he was willing to discuss the matter of Jehovah's Witnesses?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. HEON: Who said that?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No one said that.

[Mr. Heon.]

(Text):

Mr. HEON: Be that as it may, both Premier Drew and Premier Duplessis are duly elected prime ministers of their respective provinces; and there is certainly nothing to show, in the light of recent provincial by-elections, that the confidence placed in them by their fellow citizens has lessened in the least degree.

We have been told that the legislatures of Ontario and Quebec will fully examine and discuss federal proposals at their present session. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we in this house have sufficient respect for the provincial legislatures not to deny them, as the freely elected spokesmen of their provinces, the right to speak for their constituents on so important a problem.

Personally, and I speak for myself alone, I shall await with a great deal of interest—and not electoral but Canadian interest; that is what I have in mind—the outcome of the discussions in the provincial legislatures. Coming from Quebec, and proud to come from Quebec, I cannot fail to be influenced by what my own provincial legislature will decide.

May I add just one more word, Mr. Speaker? There are rumours circulating in this house that the country may be heading toward another general election. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), in his speech of February 3 last, was not overreassuring. Further, the newspaper *Le Droit* of Ottawa, dated Wednesday, February 5, 1947, in revealing to its readers the smallest details of what went on in the Liberal caucus of that same morning, published—and my hon. friend cannot deny that—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I can say that you do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. HEON: Have you read it?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Were you in the caucus?

Mr. HEON: Have you read it?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You are repeating rumours, that is all, like the rest of your speech.

Mr. HEON: Listen to me and you can contradict me later.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You are talking nonsense.

Mr. HEON: Apparently something tickles the hon. member. Before hon. members interrupt, I want them to listen to what I shall say next; then they can criticize me if they wish to. If my hon. friend does not like my citation I cannot avoid it. It was a