

*Speech from the Throne*

I believe it is time we took full cognizance of the fact it is necessary that we are all recognized as Canadians and nothing else. My private member's bill would eliminate all reference to nationality on the records of Canada and henceforth any man who could obtain Canadian citizenship—and this would refer also to our native peoples—would be referred to as Canadian and nothing else. If we are to become a great nation, we must recognize the fact that it is important that we be known as Canadians. We simply cannot continue being hyphenated Canadians. Certainly, there is far more of this today than there was four years ago. Every racial origin group in this country is starting to come forward with its form of hyphenated Canadianism. This is impractical. No nation on this earth which has ever been great has pursued such a concept for very long.

I suggest we should take a real look at this area in the days ahead. It seems ridiculous that such a designation should be on any government document. Those who take over in the next four years should give this matter a thorough review. Also, it is not good in relation to the Canadian identity to take away certain things which are a part of our heritage as is being done in respect of the letters RCMP. They are part of the Canadian heritage and Canadian history. These letters represent a body that is honourable and good, and which is one of the most respected police forces in the world. One could consider how many boys have been made men because they had the RCMP crest placed on their chests. They were not all little Christs when they joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, but the fact that that heritage and tradition was behind them made many men great and gave us a police force of which we could be proud. If we are to assume and carry on any further Canadian identity we must not do anything to destroy this heritage. We must all be Canadians. It is difficult for us to imagine how a sense of purpose can be developed among Canadians if we are not to be known as Canadians and we do not maintain these historic traditions.

• (1450)

I think there are other areas which we should be exploring in the Throne Speech debate in the days ahead. It is difficult for me to imagine that the whole business of welfare and unemployment insurance should not be reviewed, as well as what the priorities that are apparently being placed in these areas are doing to people. I think we have developed an attitude in Canada of wanting something for nothing. All of us who have come this far in life know that you get nothing for nothing. Even in a just society you get nothing for nothing. I think there are many jobs in this country which could be performed for the public good, various public works which could improve the life, appearance and the whole fact of being Canadian. I suggest that many of our unemployed are purposely unemployed and that there are many people on welfare who need not be. I think that some directives should be given in regard to training and the allocation of jobs in the public interest to people who are willing to receive money from the public purse. This is an area which should be reviewed in the session ahead.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** First let me congratulate the movers of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne (Mr. Whicher and Mr. Lajoie).

The hon. member for Bruce has made, in my opinion, an outstanding speech in the best tradition of this House. He has put a lot of life—

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** —in his speech and this is obvious judging from the hon. members' reaction when I congratulate him.

In my opinion, it is necessary in this House to have animated speeches from time to time. This House should keep this spirit of debate which has been prevailing for many years and even though certain hon. members did not appreciate the true facts mentioned by the member for Bruce I think it was quite appropriate for him to state them. Hon. members should extend him their most sincere congratulations.

Of course, I was most pleased to find that the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne was the hon. member for Trois-Rivières. He committed himself to politics only a few months ago out of his sense of duty and I think he has demonstrated that all hon. members and particularly those from the province of Quebec want to participate in the business of the House and show that we are all Canadians, that we all hope to contribute to our country's life and protect our culture.

As the hon. member for Trois-Rivières said, he has proved himself by bringing his wife from British Columbia—as did the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)—and I hope that the Prime Minister will be able to follow suit and also have eight young Canadians during his married life.

In any event, as a citizen of la Mauricie, I want to congratulate the hon. member for Trois-Rivières and I can assure other hon. members that he will have a long and fruitful career as representative of this beautiful and ancient city, full of traditions, located in the heart of la Mauricie.

[*English*]

In the course of this debate, my colleagues will tell the House of the gains Canadians have made in the last four years in their standard of living and in the increased number of jobs and real income. My topic today is not so easily measured, not assessed in statistics, but, perhaps what is even more important, it is a field to which this government has given great attention. We have accomplished a great deal. I speak of the quality of Canadian life. I speak of those intangibles which make life more enjoyable, more rewarding and more gratifying—the world of nature, the world of our environment and the world of our heritage. The government and parliament have been giving more and more of their attention to conditions and policies affecting the quality of living—in our cities, our towns, our rural areas, in the north—in all of Canada. The quality of life varies throughout our land. In part, this reflects the differences and the diversities from which we draw our strength and our distinctiveness as a nation. We want to safeguard those diversities, to give