

*Interim Supply*

economic progress. In spite of much sincere and conscientious effort on both sides, and I think that effort has increased in recent years, to reduce and remove these strains, "The Two Solitudes" developed side by side in many of the cities and industrial areas in the province of Quebec. In earlier years after confederation this state, if I may call it that, of bicultural co-existence did not raise many or obvious problems. In those days there were only marginal contacts between the two groups and English had become the language of bilingualism. Even after world war II, when things began to change rapidly in Quebec, the Union Nationale regime helped to hide what was taking place in French Canada from the English speaking community.

This Quebec industrial revolution was accompanied, as revolutions of this kind nearly always are, by parallel revolutions in other fields. Perhaps it was most apparent in the arts and in literature. But the structure of society was also changing in other respects as well. Co-operatives, labour unions, credit unions all grew rapidly in that province. Even more important were the changes taking place in the system of education there. Engineering, commerce, the natural sciences and the social sciences began to attract a greater and greater number of students.

People in English speaking Canada were aware, of course, that something was happening in Quebec. We were becoming more and more conscious than we were before of Quebec's importance as a partner in confederation. We were not lacking in good will and in a desire to understand the special situation of Quebec. But perhaps we needed shock treatment to make us appreciate the full significance of what had happened, of Quebec's social revolution. That shock was given in recent years by separatism, by the agitation in some quarters, which got so much publicity, for what was called political liberation. That was an extreme reaction to what had been going on for at least 15 years in industrial and social change. Less extreme reactions, however, were perhaps even more significant and quite as sincere as a reflection of Quebec's impatience with her present position in confederation. In any event, for Quebec the period of rural isolationism was over and the prospect of mere survival, even industrial survival, in confederation was not good enough.

It is now clear to all of us, I think, that French speaking Canadians are determined to become directors of their economic and cultural destiny in their own changed and changing society. They feel that in doing so they are not being isolationists but that, on the contrary, only in this way can they make

their rightful contribution to the true development of Canadian confederation. To this end they also ask for equal and full opportunity to participate in all federal government services, in which their own language will be fully recognized. This right flows from the equal partnership of confederation.

Are these objectives of full participation in the discharge of national responsibilities along with the full enjoyment of rights and opportunities attainable for all French speaking citizens in our country as it is at present organized in confederation? I submit that the answer depends in part on French speaking Canadians themselves, on their willingness to continue the effort they have been making, on a large scale since 1960, to develop educational facilities and to ensure that there will be enough qualified French speaking Canadians to exploit the opportunities and fulfil the responsibilities that develop.

But the answer also depends, and I believe in greater degree, on English speaking Canadians because we are in the majority. In managerial levels in industry, for instance, and in the federal public services it is the English speaking Canadians who must accept the changes which are required to make a reality of full partnership. Are we willing to do it? Are we prepared not only to accept those long term objectives of partnership but, perhaps more important and more difficult for us, to take immediate and concrete steps to achieve them?

If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative, then we can be confident of the future of our united country and we can look forward to a new era of strength and unity which will enable us to overcome any economic, cultural and political differences and to go forward together as Canadians. But if the answer is negative, not so much the answer in words but the answer in fact, and if we become unaware or careless of the obligations and opportunities of true partnership, we will continue in this country to drift from one difficulty to another until a majority of people on both sides will have had enough of this unique Canadian experience. The final result of that would, indeed, be separatism. I am sure we are all in full agreement that this course would be only a desperate and despairing solution, for it would mean the end of our united country and the betrayal of a great national heritage. It would be a loss, an indescribable loss to us all.

Today, when the greatest need of free men and free nations is to come closer together politically, economically and culturally, to accept and act on the compulsions and opportunities of interdependence; at this time of all times it would be a tragic thing for Canadians