

The *Société Nationale des Acadiens* cannot dictate and enforce their policy over the whole French population of the Maritimes, especially New Brunswick. We, the French Canadians, do not share their attitude. We French Canadians do not share any separatism policy. We French Canadians cannot tolerate any longer such agitation, as we French Canadians strongly recognize that the events of 1755 are now over 300 years past and should be shelved once for all. But rather we French Canadians are looking forward to the future instead of back at the past. We French Canadians believe in unity, friendship, freedom, freedom and respect to all classes of society, freedom of church, freedom of languages, freedom of schools, freedom of the press, but not exactly the type of freedom we have received lately from the French press headed by the editors of the newspaper *l'Evangeline*.

We, the French of Madawaska, have since Confederation set an example to the rest of Canada, as we are living two races in harmony and friendship, with freedom of languages and religions. This we want to continue, and we want the English population to cherish this same freedom without limitation.

Ladies and gentlemen—

I was referring to the audience.

—is there anything wrong in having our children learn the English language? Is there anything wrong in having the English boys and girls learn the French language? Is there anything wrong in being bilingual? No, my friends, let us work together as we have in the past, to keep and protect this friendly atmosphere which exists here, to live and let live.

On February 2, 1964—three weeks ago—I made another speech, by request, on the separatist movement, and I will read just one paragraph from it, because I want to give the floor to someone else.

Are we much longer to stand idle without saying anything? Are we going to stand idle and let a few people who claim to be the voice of the French people build a Berlin wall between the French and English of this province, without giving any thinking and consideration for those who will suffer the most from such revolutionary action?

In closing, I would say that my opinion on bilingualism and biculturalism is that it should not be imposed on anyone, but that it should be voluntary. If we had been given another 10 or 15 years, I am convinced, honestly and sincerely, that many of the present difficulties would have disappeared.

My father and mother are 79 and 80 years of age, respectively. They do not understand a word of English. I come of a second generation. I can put a few words of English together, enough to get by—and I hope you have at least understood what I have tried to say—which is a step forward from the situation of my father and mother. My children are not completely bilingual, but they are much better than I am. However, my grandchildren, three or four years of age, are perfectly bilingual. So this problem is completely disappearing in my family; and there are thousands of families like mine amongst French-speaking people, and I am convinced there are just as many English-speaking families in the same position. Probably in another 10 years all young people will be bilingual, and in your family your children will speak both English and French. In this way the problems will iron themselves out.

As far as my culture is concerned, I am free to do anything I want. I can play the mouth organ and square dance, and there is nobody to stop me. The English-speaking people can do the same things. It all depends on what you put into it—this is the freedom we want to champion. Now, I conclude with these words: we cannot stop the birds from flying over our heads but, surely, we can stop them making a nest in our hair.

Hon. Norman McL. Paterson: Honourable senators, may I take the liberty of tendering to you, Mr. Speaker, my very best wishes, and also of congratulating our new Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) on his appointment, and of wishing him well. I should also like to join with other honourable senators in welcoming the new senators to this chamber.

I did not intend saying anything about my home district, because its importance speaks for itself, but I want to mention in passing that it is still one of the great grain-shipping ports of the world. In the 1963 season it loaded in ships some 350 million bushels of grain, some going in foreign ships but the great bulk of it in Canadian ships to eastern Canadian ports for loading in foreign ships and for domestic use. However, that is not what I rose to say at this time.

For 24 years I have been in this chamber, and during that time I have sat on both sides of the house. All that time I have wondered where these paintings came from that cover what otherwise would be bare walls of the Senate chamber. They are very well painted and, for two reasons which I will mention later, I consider them extremely valuable. At last, through the efforts of our clerk, Mr. MacNeill, we have been able to solve the problem. He has received a letter from Mr. R. F. Wodehouse, Curator of War