

cannot ignore such a declaration. Perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister has considered that, due to a rather important vote of confidence he has obtained in the province of Quebec, he is justified in postponing constitutional reforms. If such were the case, he would commit a tremendous error in repeating everywhere that Quebec is a province like the others. This is not right and he knows it.

How can a just society be achieved if, at first, the state of mind and the particular status of French Canadians living in Quebec are not recognized? Whether it is admitted or not, I say there exists a French-Canadian nation in this country and 85 per cent of its people live in Quebec. On behalf of this nation, Mr. Speaker, I want you to believe that there is an urgent need to elaborate this new constitution. Furthermore, in the interests of Canada and considering the future of our country, this is a serious warning I am giving. It is quite urgent that all the party leaders show courage in order to have the rest of the country admit the fact that Quebec is not a province like the others. Only then, realizing our differences and each having his own mentality and his own way of thinking, will we be able to sit around the same table and build the most beautiful country in the world. I would be shirking my duty if I did not say that.

I agree with the Prime Minister when he says that it is not what he says that is important, but what he is going to do. It seems to me that he will find it hard to escape what he said in Montreal on April 2, 1967. For the instruction of the English-speaking majority of the country, he made some rather strong demands concerning the recognition of the rights of French Canadians, among others, a maximum of material and cultural freedom and comfort. He wished for a strong Canada and asserted that the best guarantee of progress for Canada itself was a strong and dynamic country.

Quebec indubitably has a special place in the national scheme. It is impossible to believe in a just society if the new constitution refuses to recognize that Quebec has a certain influence in the field of social security, manpower and vocational training, immigration, radio and television.

Eventually, the house will have to determine to what extent decentralization is necessary so that Quebec, on the one hand, and the federal government, on the other, might fulfil their role efficiently. I trust that the Quebec members in this government will

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take the measures and the stands required for that purpose.

May I be allowed, Mr. Speaker, to deeply regret the attitude of this government with regard to a recent decision, namely the winter works program. I have heard the answer given by the Prime Minister to questions put to him recently in the house to the effect that the municipalities were expecting that decision. What is unacceptable, in my opinion, is the fact that such a decision has been taken without official consultations with the municipalities.

In my riding and everywhere in Canada, municipal budgets had been prepared on the basis of those subsidies. Furthermore, it was done at a time of the year, when we already have more than 400,000 unemployed, whereas those works represented for our economy \$200 million in wages, materials and so on. I say it again, so that the right hon. Prime Minister can hear it, a just society, it is not quite that.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope that a just society will, in the shortest time possible, attend to the discrepancy between the pensions of the disabled and the blind and those of the old people.

I would not like to miss this opportunity to ask, in the name of justice, that the package bill be introduced in part at first. In view of the various mentalities and beliefs prevailing in this house, a free vote on this question, in due time, is absolutely necessary if we truly believe in a just society.

Before closing my remarks, I too should like to tell the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) that the new international airport would provide for a great deal of opportunities if it were built in the area which I represent. Therefore, in view of the fact that a portion of the north bank of the St. Lawrence river is adjacent to my riding, I think that it would be appropriate to carry out a study on the establishment of the maintenance centre in Lanoraie, which in the first place, would relieve traffic in the Montreal harbour, while at the same time contributing greatly to the economic expansion of that area.

Along the same lines, in view of the fact that, in the northern part of the Montcalm riding, the tourist industry is the first source of income, I would be very happy to see a study carried out on the feasibility of a small airport for two-engine aircrafts in St. Donat. I am convinced that such a venture would