

The Address—Mr. Pinard

have advocated that their aim and intention has been to bring about a divided country instead of trying to have a united Canada. While constantly opposing the needs of one section of the country to those of another, or again while trying to antagonize one province against the others, on other occasions by their attitude they have tried to create unrest and at times even hatred between the two great races. Thus they have become in fact, even though perhaps unwillingly, the real enemies of Canadian unity. Not only in their speeches but in their writings our friends the Progressive Conservatives seem even today to have some sort of dislike or aversion for the words "Canadian unity." You may look through the declaration of policy that party adopted last October, and in the whole twenty-three pages of what I would call the Tory tale of promises to the people you will not find one word about unity. This pamphlet contains almost everything as far as offers to the people are concerned except an undertaking to work with the people to bring about unity in Canada. Yet after the recent by-election in Nicolet-Yamaska the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) interpreted the result as an expression of gratitude by the people of that riding for the great work accomplished by the Progressive Conservative party in the direction of Canadian unity.

After that election we saw in the press that we Liberals who had participated in the campaign were accused of having raised religious or racial cries on various occasions.

I am asking you, Mr. Speaker: Who has in fact raised such an appeal? Is it the members on this side of the house who have constantly worked to establish unity, tolerance and better understanding between the races of this country? Is it the Liberal governments under Laurier and Fielding or is it the government led for so long a time by the right hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King) and his former colleague Ernest Lapointe, or is it this present government which has raised religious or race cries in this house? On no occasion have you heard that, Mr. Speaker. I would refer hon. members to some words that were used in this very house by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on January 31 of this year, as reported at page 89 of *Hansard*:

We have always been able to put forward the same policy and to make the same appeal in both languages. There has never been a Liberal government since confederation which has not recognized at all times in its ranks the principle upon which this nation was really founded, the principle of the partnership of the two races. Our party is the only one which has been able to have leaders from both races; and our party has always practised the precept of unity—which is desired I think by most Canadians.

[Mr. Pinard.]

A little further on he added:

We also stand for national unity, unity based upon the fundamental equality of all Canadians whatever their race or wherever their province.

On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the leader of the opposition should not be called the real enemy of national unity or whether it should not be he rather than we who should be accused of raising religious or racial cries, in view of the declarations that the leader of the opposition himself has made on many occasions in the past—and I quote his own words as they were reported on one occasion:

Are we going to permit one isolationist province to dominate the destiny of a divided Canada? I hope that each one of you will answer with a resounding "no" which will be heard in every part of the province of Quebec.

This was said by the leader of the opposition on the occasion of the discussion concerning family allowances; and I could cite many of these expressions by the leader of the opposition along the same lines. For instance, if we are accused of raising the religious cry, I would refer this house to a declaration that was made by the leader of the opposition at one time in his own province. He said this, and I quote his own words:

If the Roman Catholics say they are going to bring their faith into the political scene by organizing as a political party, then I say "the war is on." If they do, they are starting something that may end in the abolition of the separate schools in Ontario. If it appears that the Roman Catholics have decided to operate as a political group—

Which has never been the case, by the way, and the hon. gentleman knows it only too well.

—then the contract of 1867 is forfeited and I will be ready to fight to the last ditch.

Those were some of the appeals made by the leader of the opposition. I am surprised to find that today we are the ones who are being accused of raising religious and racial cries. It has never been done by the Liberal party. Nobody on this side of the house has ever tried to do such a thing. Because of the fact that most of the members from the province of Quebec belong to our group, it is untrue to say that the religious or race cry has been raised by anybody on this side of the house.

It is so true that the leader of the opposition has become a real enemy of Canadian unity that he did not go and participate in the election in the riding of Nicolet-Yamaska.

An hon. Member: He was not obliged to.

Mr. Pinard: In fact, he was invited to stay out by the candidate of the party at the time.

Mr. Hodgson: Twenty-three leaders of the Liberal party were down there. He did not need to go down.