

Besides, at the present time, we have similar reactions in other areas. For instance, the government reacted when the 10 per cent surcharge was imposed by the President of the United States, and we reacted by introducing a bill to support employment in Canada.

Of course, I also reacted at that time, after having asked my constituents for their views. I had received their approval and almost all were unanimous in thinking that perhaps circumstances were such as to favour the revival of the debate on identity cards.

The motion itself says, and I quote:

—the government should immediately consider—

I am not requesting that we require immediately that people carry an identification card, because I believe it is more important to consider the arguments for and against this before taking a decisive step on the matter.

I also said that we must, and I continue the quotation:

—requiring Canadian citizens and immigrants to carry an identification card.

And maybe we should add that every resident citizen in Canada should be required to carry such a card.

So I believed it was important to clarify the text because the matter has been much questioned, it has prompted a controversy among newspapermen and, obviously, it will be discussed until a more definite position is taken.

I must point out that personally, I am in favour of a compulsory identification card for all Canadian residents unless, of course, I am given evidence that I am wrong in my present approach to the problem.

I would like also to thank the Library's management who has forwarded to me a considerable amount of literature on this subject and part of my comments this afternoon are actually based on this information.

Indeed, my remarks this afternoon will not necessarily detail all the pros and cons in respect of identity cards, but I am sure that most of these arguments will prove to be well-grounded. Hon. members will thus have an opportunity of considering my comments and letting me know whether they feel that the government should give priority to this issue.

Should anyone care to know some of the historical background of this question, one must go back far enough into the history of the province of Quebec. In this respect, I have received from the Library an excerpt of pages 157 and 158 of an article entitled: "Electoral legislation in Quebec".

At first, the main argument in favour of an identity card was that it would help prevent electoral frauds. Since then things have greatly changed and today an identity card would be more related to other needs than to prevent electoral fraud.

But it is interesting to note that the Union National party had approved in 1936 a legislation to the effect that each voter should produce his identity card before entering an election office. For one reason or another, this law was repealed before the 1939 elections and voters were not required then to show their identity cards before casting their vote in the ballot box.

Under Camilien Houde an attempt was made to introduce such a card and again the only argument put forward was that an ID card could prevent election fraud.

24319—54

Canadian Citizen Identification Cards

The municipal election in 1962 carried a referendum on a mandatory I.D. card, and 75 per cent of the Montreal voters registered their approval.

Later, Mayor Jean Drapeau and Mr. Lucien Saulnier, President of the Executive Committee went before the Quebec Legislature and asked that a clause calling for a mandatory I.D. card be included in the constitution of the City of Montreal.

At the time Daniel Johnson was premier of the province of Quebec and after lengthy talks it seemed that the idea was dismissed though the population had strongly favoured it.

In that connection I would like to quote from an anonymous article published in *Le Devoir* of April 10, 1967 and entitled "The I.D. Card and the Fears of a Police State". It reads:

• (4:10 p.m.)

Five years ago, in a referendum before the 1962 municipal election, the Montreal population overwhelmingly endorsed the introduction of a mandatory identification card. Apparently this referendum was useless because the discussions held in Quebec City when the amendments to the charter of the City of Montreal came under study indicated that the identification card was not forthcoming.

In 1963, another minister of the province of Quebec, Mr. Lafrance, took over the idea. He launched an important campaign advocating the need for an identification card. The card would no longer be mandatory.

On December 11, 1963, Pierre O'Neill said in *La Presse*:

The Family and Social Welfare Department is about to launch a major campaign to have the principle of the identification card accepted by the citizens of the province of Quebec.

The card Mr. Lafrance is thinking about would not be mandatory, but it is almost certain it will be some day. Besides, the minister makes no mystery about his final objective.

We are already aware of how strong will be the opposition the minister will have to face. Large segments of our population and especially the intellectuals strongly oppose this measure.

A fierce battle may be expected.

Apparently, the battle did not last long because this proposal made by Quebec minister Lafrance came to a dead-end. But in 1967, the judges in the province of Quebec held a conference and spoke in favour of an identity card for all Canadian citizens. I would like to quote from a few articles published at the time of this conference. An unsigned article published in *Le Soleil* on September 20, 1967, stated partly under the headline "La carte d'identité":

Identity cards are an easy way to track down criminals. Quite astonishingly, groups which are the most vehemently opposing frauds of all kinds and which are demanding the use of drastic procedures for proving identity are against identity cards. They always put forward the fallacious argument of individuals rights whereas identity cards would apply equally to all citizens and are becoming more and more necessary to ensure the protection of both the citizens and the community.

And Roger Champoux, in an article published in *La Presse* on 19 September, stated partly, and I quote:

Identity cards were mentioned at the time of Mayor Camillien Houde and the system was initiated. Cards were printed, photos taken by the thousands and then, without any explanation, the whole business was dropped. From time to time, emphasis is being given to compulsory identity cards, as is happening now;