

because it will not deprive me in any respect of my rights as a British subject, nevertheless I cannot see the rights of other British subjects who may come to Canada derogated from in any way that I should not like were it applied to myself. That is why I have spoken in this way. The minister has also said that the position I take is an extreme one. Let me disabuse his mind. The position I take is in no way extreme; it is the position that is taken by the great majority of the people of Canada.

We talk also of this great question of national unity in the country and no one wants it more than I do. Indeed, there is no one in Canada who does not want it and want it quickly. But I must say I am fed up with gibes directed at my status as a Canadian because I am one of those who hold the British connection, dear. Let me say to hon. members opposite, who so freely make gibes at me and my kind, that our Canadianism is not complete; that we walk in a shadow; that we are colonials, and things of that nature—that I bitterly resent these remarks. I do not reply with counter gibes, but I do say to them that Canadian unity is not to be built on any foundation such as that. I will go a long way to meet the views of any hon. gentleman in this house, but I do not see why I should have to put up with things that I consider insulting to myself. If we who value the British connection think that Canada's destiny is to take a part in the world commensurate with our greatness as a nation, and therefore we look outwards as well as inwards—outwards to the world as well as inwards on ourselves—that does not make us any less good Canadians than those who look inwards only.

May I conclude by saying that I shall await, from the Secretary of State with interest some reasonable ground upon which he can support his opposition to this amendment. But it will have to be a great deal better, if it is to convince me, than anything I have heard so far in this debate.

Mr. MARTIN: I have listened attentively to the hon. gentleman. I did not intend to take the line which I am about to follow, but I feel that in the few moments remaining before eleven o'clock I should say this. No one appreciates more than I do the character and gallantry of the hon. gentleman. No one admires him more in this house. In fact, we all admire the hon. gentleman for his gallantry. But he has no monopoly on patriotism in so far as it concerns Canada—

Mr. MERRITT: Nor does he claim it.

Mr. MARTIN: —or in so far as it concerns the feeling which all of us share of loyalty to a common crown, which is the basis of that common status which we call British subjects. Under this measure British subjects do not lose one right which they have now.

Mr. COCKERAM: They certainly do.

Mr. MARTIN: My hon. friend says they certainly do. Let me repeat that under this bill British subjects, at the end of one year, having resided in a constituency for two months continuously, will have the right to vote. Having resided here for one year, after the passage of this bill, British subjects will be able to run for parliament. They will be eligible for civil service appointments; they will be eligible to vote. I repeat, what right under this bill is taken away from British subjects?

I should have thought that my hon. friends would have commended the government—and perhaps, too, the Secretary of State—for doing what is done in no act in any dominion in the commonwealth, namely, saying, without fear and unequivocally, in section 26—the only place where it is done in the British commonwealth—that a Canadian citizen is a British subject.

Why try to create the impression that only one group in this house has loyalty to the crown? We all have. Loyalty is not confined only to one group; it is shared by all of us. As my hon. friend spoke I reflected that I happen to be three-quarters of French descent. My wife's father's people, all came from the British isles. As a young lad I studied in the province of Quebec. My mother, a French-Canadian woman, said, "I want you to understand that Canada is a large country with many groups." As the hon. gentleman sitting right in front of the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard knows, I took my university course at the university of Toronto and I studied at an English university with the view of trying to understand both sides. I cannot, therefore, sit in my place and have anyone suggest to me that I have not a full appreciation of the value of the words "British subject".

It is for that reason that, addressing myself to other hon. gentlemen in this house who take an opposite view—what I call an extreme view—I have resisted the suggestion that this bill suffers in its purposes because of the implications of section 26.

I believe that Canada is a free nation within the commonwealth, a commonwealth which, as I said last night, has been a source of good in the world and has been maintained because