

has made tremendous progress in every field of human endeavour.

I was glad to hear that some of the senators in the course of this debate have paid tribute to the Ukrainian contribution to Canada. I believe the Ukrainians will play a bigger role in the future. This can be said also of the other ethnic groups such as the Germans, Jews, Icelanders, Poles, Italians, Indians and others. The English, Irish, Scots, Welsh, the French, and the other ethnic groups are united as Canadians. We have come out of the past together, are together in the present, and will go ahead together and united into the future.

"Unity in diversity" is a good and viable principle. It now has official recognition. When the present Government came into power, this principle was inscribed in the first Speech from the Throne of May 16, 1963:

The character and strength of our nation are drawn from the diverse cultures of people who came from many lands to create the Canada that is ours today. The greater Canada that is in our power to make will be built not on uniformity but on continuing diversity. . . .

Since I had spoken on this topic in the Senate some ten months ago—at which time I had stated that the non-British, non-French ethnic groups of the third element would soon unite to work together for the welfare of Canada—a conference with this objective was held in Ottawa on November 8 and 9 this year, under the patronage of the Honourable Maurice Lamontagne, Secretary of State, and the Honourable René Tremblay, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and sponsored by the Centennial Commission. The conference established the Canadian Folk Art Council, supported by government funds, on a permanent basis, with representatives from all the ethnic groups, to plan participation in the Centennial celebrations of 1967 and in the general development of Canadian culture subsequently. This is the putting of the principle of "unity in diversity" into practice and action.

Material achievements of mankind are important, but in my opinion more important are the spiritual and cultural achievements. The imperishable gift of the British to the Canadian way of life is the parliamentary system of government, an evolutionary democracy under the Crown, safeguarding the authority of and equality before the law, liberty, justice, fair play, equal opportunity for all and the dignity of the individual. Through our Parliament we have achieved independence, sovereignty and prestige throughout the world. The French gift of cultural preservation and development, love

of Canada, pride in their language and traditions and devotion to religion, have made Canadians more conscious of the meaning of life. All these are profound and precious human values of the highest order, which have been reinforced by the contributions of the other ethnic groups and which should be held perpetually sacred by the Canadian nation. They were gained by great sacrifices and have become our heritage to enjoy, to improve and to pass on to future generations.

A flag should symbolize our great heritage and the undying spirit of the nation. In his admirable speech, Senator Grattan O'Leary referred to the essentials of a national flag, which were outlined by President Woodrow Wilson, himself a historian. It is worth repeating:

The things that the flag stands for were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history.

We are building what we would like to call a great nation. A great and dynamic nation must be dedicated to great and high ideals and principles, which have come from the past and which should be symbolized in the flag. Without the founding peoples and their contributions, there would be no Canada today. It is my conviction that a leaf is too insignificant to represent great human values and the accumulated heritage of preceding generations. What kind of a dynamic spirit can it convey?

I would like to see meaningful symbols of the founding peoples enshrined forever on the distinctive Canadian flag, which could also include the maple leaf. Such a flag cannot be produced in haste. It must be the product of the best minds of our country and should be done in consultation with the component peoples of our population, the provincial governments, the universities, the churches, veterans' associations, the cultural organizations and interested citizen societies. When adopted in Parliament, such a flag should receive the approval of all the parties, at least the two largest. A united effort by the Canadians would produce a flag of Canadian unity which would then be our pride and inspiration. This requires more planning and more time.

Consequently, I support the amendment.

**Hon. Léon Méthot:** Honourable senators, I have listened very carefully to what was said by the Leader of the Government, and I have also read the French version of what he said in order to appreciate fully the magnificent speech he made.