

follow its leaders for better or for worse. But it is quite clear that if the moderates succeed in changing the status quo and in working out a reasonable compromise, they will get the general support of the French-Canadian people.

This compromise will require important adjustments in the economic, cultural and political fields. French Canadians, especially in Quebec, should be able to participate fully in the direction of their economic life without having to give up their culture. This increasing participation should be part of a general plan that private corporations ought to initiate as quickly as possible, in order to adjust to the cultural and social environment.

In the cultural field, a much greater degree of bilingualism must be achieved outside Quebec. This will require a revision of teaching methods and programmes, the recognition of the historical and constitutional rights of French-Canadian minorities and the development of a bilingual Federal Civil Service in Ottawa.

In the political field, our federalism needs a new orientation. The Federal Government should be prepared to withdraw from existing and well-established joint programmes in areas which have been assigned to the provinces and to compensate financially those provincial governments which are willing to assume these additional responsibilities. This would make our federalism more flexible. In the fields which require joint intervention of both levels of government, such as economic development, new arrangements must be made to maintain continuing consultation in order to achieve co-ordinated action. This would make our federalism more co-operative and more effective. Finally, truly distinctive national symbols are needed to assert Canada's full sovereignty.

I am certain that such a general approach to the problems of Canadian unity is completely unacceptable to the extremists on both sides. I am quite sure that it would be supported by most French Canadians as a much better alternative to separatism. But is it acceptable to the majority of English-speaking Canadians? This vital question has not yet received a definite answer.

If their answer is in the negative, if they want to preserve the status quo, then the voice of the moderates in French Canada will cease to be heard and all of us will face a catastrophe. If, on the contrary, the answer is positive, if English-speaking Canadians accept the proposed new alliance as a challenge leading to new opportunities and new horizons, we will be much more united when we celebrate the centennial of Confederation than we were in 1867.

The movement for greater economic emancipation has already begun in Quebec. A federal-provincial conference will be held in Ottawa at the end of this month. I hope, that this will be only the first of a series of meetings, designed to reconsider and redefine our federal structure of government. A Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism has been set up and is now getting prepared to hold what I call a referendum on these vital matters. In the meantime, the preparations for the centennial of the Canadian Confederation are under way. But we will not have much to celebrate if we fail in those attempts to rebuild our unity. We began in 1864 to develop the compromise which was accepted in 1867. It will not be too early to get to work together in 1964, if we want to celebrate a new alliance in 1967. This is Canada's new and great challenge.