

The situation vis-à-vis French Canada is only one dimension of the unity question. Equally important is the recognition of the multi-ethnic nature of Canada. Unfortunately the vocabulary of politics is insufficiently rich to provide us with precise terms to describe its many complex concepts. So often we must resort to analogy and metaphor more appropriate to the physical than the political world - we speak of the "mosaic of Canada", its "patch-work quality", the "flower garden", the "rainbow" or the "kaleidoscope". These similies, although much overworked, do give us a picture of the plural nature of our society.

Although the vocabulary of Canadian politics is imprecise and necessarily so, there are some basic points which should be clarified.

For example, there must be no confusion in our minds about the meaning of the terms "English-Canada" and "English-speaking Canada". Of course, no one for one moment would deny the influence of Britain - or more specifically of England - on the institutions and cultural mores of Canada. Regardless of our origins, we all share the benefits of this political, legal and social heritage. At the same time, however, this country has been shaped by its North American environment and by the contribution of people - as groups and as individuals - from scores of countries around the world. In addition to the specific gifts which each ethnic group has brought to Canada, the presence of many ethnic groups has given it a character which makes the term "English Canada" completely outmoded in 1967.