

*The Address—Mr. Ricard*

part of the city which is called Bourg-Joli, has developed so fast that the building of two tunnels to relieve congestion in the underground passage of St. Anne street—the only one leading to the northern part of the town—has become a necessity. Workers of the St. Hyacinthe-Annexe, in particular, are often delayed by trains passing at the level crossing in Cascades East street, when travelling to and from work. The costs of those underground passages could be assumed by the city of St. Hyacinthe, the federal government and the Canadian National Railways.

During the last two weeks, hon. members in the opposition have mentioned the national flag and the representative our country should have at the Vatican. I trust that the hon. Prime Minister will, in due course, give the representatives of the people the opportunity to submit the views of their ridings on those two matters that have been left pending by the Mackenzie King and St. Laurent governments.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, I should like now to congratulate very sincerely the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Maloney) on the splendid speech he made in this house the other day. I am sure all hon. members will agree that it is one of the best we have heard since the beginning of the present session. The French part of this speech was a very fine gesture to the French-speaking members of this house as well as to those in the whole of the country. He reviewed the situation which faces us in such a manner and with such vision that we are permitted to believe that he has a very enviable future in our party and, thus, in government. I do not hesitate to state that a frame of mind such as the hon. member for Parkdale entertained does more for national unity than another sort of speech which was made in this house at the beginning of the present session.

English-speaking people and French-speaking people have a much better chance to understand each other and to live harmoniously side by side if they adopt the kind of thinking of the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Maloney), the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Stinson), the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) and the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Haidasz), and all those who think, act and talk as they do. This great nation of ours needs a complete understanding amongst those composing it. Members of this house can set a very effective example to their fellow citizens by taking

advantage of any opportunity to show that they understand the views of other ethnical groups.

It might be interesting for many hon. members to learn that my riding elected me as a Conservative in spite of tremendous efforts on the part of the Liberal candidate, his aides and the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) who waged a campaign of racial, sectional and religious prejudices. In what was intended to be the great rally for the Liberals, the former member for Stormont developed the following theme, according to the report in the Liberal weekly:

The chief of the Conservative party has made a deal with the premier of Ontario against the best interests of the province of Quebec.

When the former member of an Ontario constituency was saying:

The Liberal party is the only one that has a unified thinking all through Canada.

I wonder whether he knew that in the same issue of the paper the Liberal organization would make a strong appeal to racial prejudices by publishing, next to the photograph of the then prime minister:

We do not want Diefenbaker and his anti-French Canadian policy.

The members of the Liberal party who like to speak so much of Canadian unity would be keenly interested to learn that on the eve of the election the Liberal organization caused to be distributed after Sunday masses a circular appealing this time to the religious feelings of our population in such a way that the president of the Liberal organization for my riding has been arrested for having published and distributed a libelous circular without any signature or any name of a printer.

I am glad to proclaim that the people of St. Hyacinthe-Bagot, who are 99.9 per cent Canadians of French origin and who profess the Catholic religion, have ignored the sectionalism, the religious and the racial prejudice pact campaign of a former liberal member of this house. Let it be known to this house and to the country that my people do not ask for any favours; all they want is justice. Since we did not obtain it from the Liberal party we turned to our great Conservative party and I am confident that we shall obtain justice from our able leader.

In coming to this house, sir, I have accepted the obligation of acting as a representative of all the people of my constituency. Mr. Speaker, it will be a pleasure for me to devote my energy and full capacity in the best interests of our country, under the banner of the Conservative party and under the able leadership of our Prime Minister.