

*The Address—Mr. Perron*

into serious consideration the grievances which we feel are fully justified.

I have before me an editorial published in *Relations* of January 1963, that mentions bilingualism in the federal service. Still there is a quotation from a speech delivered at a conference by Mr. Eugene A. Forsey, an Anglo-Canadian intellectual from Ottawa, pleading in favour of real Anglo-French association in Canada. Here is what he said in part:

The effective recognition of the French partner is the price to be paid, and if the English majority is not prepared to pay this price, the truth of the matter is, that it does not really want a Canada.

Not only the Creditistes see in its true light the problem as it is today.

Let us see what are the grievances of the province of Quebec in the context of the economic emancipation it is undergoing at present. We are just being asked to make whatever contribution we can to confederation. The moment that the French Canadians from Quebec decide to assume their responsibilities in various fields, regarding the economy of their province in particular, it seems to displease and to scare some people. Are we being threatened with separatism?

Let us see what our grievances are. They are fairly justified when one looks at Quebec's poor record. In 1962, out of a national total of 9,000 bankruptcies, the province of Quebec accounted for 62 per cent of the whole, both in business and in industry. It is not a record French Canadians can be proud of. Evidently, some will say it is because we have no business acumen. However, there are among us institutions and structures which are becoming stronger and stronger from an economic and financial point of view: we have the caisses populaires, various industrial associations, consumers' associations, labour unions, farmers' unions and so forth. We simply wish to hold our place in confederation, without doing any harm to the other provinces by contributing what we should normally offer the Canadian confederation.

If we look again to statistics, we find we have the lowest salaries as compared to salaries paid in the five provinces in western Canada. So much so that some historians alleged that we in Quebec are the white negroes of America.

If we sometimes demand a speeding up of industrialization in Quebec, in regard to secondary industry, it is because the record I have just mentioned is not too pleasant. Quebec may certainly offer a great deal to the Canadian confederation, provided it is allowed to do so.

I have before me a report from the special committee on labour and employment in Canada, which was established under a Con-

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servative government. The report is dated June 14, 1961. We are not, therefore, to blame, since we were not even in this house in 1961. After a serious inquiry conducted by the Senate, it is found that the province of Quebec still holds a notorious record for underdeveloped areas, where unemployment is rampant, to the point of becoming a festering sore. For instance, in the Gaspé area from November to April, 41 per cent of the potential workers were unemployed.

In other districts, like Rivière du Loup, 30 per cent of all available workers were out of work. In a more industrialized area, that of Shawinigan Falls, 20 per cent of the working force were unemployed. These records represent grievances to be considered.

When reading the statistics of unemployment in Canada, in November 1963, we found that 40 per cent of our unemployed were residents of the province of Quebec. Was that province really given the opportunity, the financial means or the financial structure which would help it attract secondary industries that would absorb its labour force?

I do not think that the federal parliament really did what it could have done to provide the province of Quebec, by giving it the necessary economic guidance, with an opportunity of setting up secondary industries which certainly would have solved its unemployment problem.

However, we have had three years of Liberal government in Quebec as well as in Ottawa. Three years ago the Quebec government was proclaiming in its electoral campaign that the problem of social insecurity among workers and farmers fell within the jurisdiction of the province of Quebec. The Liberals came into power and in November 1963, we learned that 40 per cent of all those without jobs in Canada were in the province of Quebec.

In this respect also, farmers in eastern Canada certainly have grievances towards the Liberal party which had promised them a minister of agriculture for the east. That legislative measure has been withdrawn and they now bring us an alleged minister of rural development who will see to the application of ARDA in the eastern part of the country.

When I notice what happens in my riding or in the neighbouring ridings, I wonder if we should not call him minister of rural dismemberment, since a great number of villages of those ridings where families of seven, eight, 10 or 12 people had been living in the same house for 10, 20 or 50 years, and even for three or four generations, on the family farm are being "decolonized".

Now they are made to believe that it is not possible any more to live on the family