

The Address—Mr. Rouleau

Moreover, one third at least of the commissioners should be French-speaking.

6. That Canada be immediately endowed with an entirely distinctive flag—I need obviously not say that we do not want two flags—and that “O Canada” be officially recognized as the national anthem.

7. That the final formula tending to bring the Canadian constitution home contain clauses which would guarantee and safeguard the vested rights of French Canadians. In asking for this, I express the numerous requests recently made by my fellow citizens.

8. That the government consider carefully, and on its merit, the possibility of appointing a royal commission for investigating bilingualism in Canada.

9. That all high officials in the government and crown companies which are in direct relation with French speaking people, be bilingual, and, moreover, that at least a third of all those high officials be of French origin and culture.

10. That the first amendment to the constitution, when it is brought home, be in the nature of an official and solemn declaration of Canada's bilingual character.

That, Mr. Speaker, was what I had to say with regard to the separatist movement among our people which is more alive than ever and in respect of our national unity which we want to see fully achieved.

It may seem that French Canadian members frequently repeat their attacks, and that they often ask for the same things. But I would say that, as long as there is a single French Canadian member in this house, he will want to insist on the rights of his fellow citizens.

When, at the start of my remarks, I said that I was not condemning the separatists offhand, I was quite sincere. Indeed, I think that those people have tried, in their own way, to improve the lot of their fellow citizens. Even if I do not agree with their ultimate aim I know that they are in good faith. I shall not be the first to throw a stone at them. I shall rather leave that to him, or those among us who are without blame.

For my part, I would rather work towards the achievement of national unity. I realize that this is no easy task; to unite men of different languages, customs, cultures, ways of thinking and origins is a difficult goal to attain, but it can be done with the goodwill of one and all. I have already had the opportunity, in 1959, of addressing the house on national unity. I come once again to sow the

good seed, hoping that it will fall on fertile soil.

To bring my remarks to a close, I will get my inspiration from a statement made by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton) at the Canadian Affairs' meeting, on November 15, 1961. Here is what the minister said:

It is a good thing, therefore, that Canadians should stop from time to time in order to measure the progress achieved, to try to discover the causes of dissension and to take the means to eliminate them. Just like the materials which go to make a building are often invisible, so it is with the elements which make up a nation; and the mistakes made there are so many flaws which, if not attended to while there is still time, eventually will cause the building to collapse. Thus, when examining the mistakes made within the framework of confederation, the point is not to magnify them, but to reduce their effects and to correct them.

We are aware of the flaws. Should we neglect to attend to them today, the price to be paid will be exceedingly high. What will it be? The very existence of the Canadian confederation.

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): Mr. Speaker, to begin with, I should like to offer the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau) my sincere congratulations on his appointment as Deputy Speaker. Ever since he has taken over his new duties, Mr. Speaker, we have been very glad to see that he intends to follow the example you have set. I feel sure that he will wish to show the same honesty and courtesy that you have shown while presiding over the debates and that his decisions will be given in the same spirit of fairness as yours. Thus will be preserved the sacred character of your functions, since you are, in a way, the judge and the guiding hand of your colleagues.

I should also like to extend my congratulations to the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Flynn), who has been named Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. He is the newest member of the cabinet, and he was appointed under the difficult circumstances of the famous cabinet meeting in Quebec, an event preceded with much publicity and fanfare, the ministers having gone there by air, by sea, up hill and down dale. Except for the appointment of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, only wind came out of that meeting and it was greeted with a burst of laughter in the province of Quebec and in all Canada. That is what happened in Quebec, Mr. Speaker, and it is quite in the manner of this government.

It is all very well to give the people a laugh, but with all due deference to the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sevigny), the Canadian people want more