

The Address—Mr. Basford

is a negative process that could but hurt ourselves. We do not have the right to ignore our fellow citizens in the other provinces.

English speaking Canadians—here again I do not appeal only to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker—do try to understand our mentality, our ways, our customs, our language. Do not take offence at our ways or behaviour that may sometimes seem arrogant. You are not faultless, and be sure that we want you to remain English Canadians instead of being American or British.

And to all the other ethnic groups which have accepted as their homeland a bilingual country, the two official languages of which are English and French, I say: you have no right to relinquish your culture, which offers a complement to Canadian culture and which may one day serve as a link between the two founding nations and help make Canada a united power.

Stupid statements, in either of the official languages of the country, can only create a gap which may eventually become insuperable and render coexistence almost impossible.

On the other hand, speeches like those delivered by the Prime Minister in this house during the last session, the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Prittie) in Vancouver, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) before the Canadian club in Toronto, are the real leaven of national unity. The same may be said of those speeches which the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) and the Secretary of State (Mr. Lamontagne) gave throughout the country.

On the other hand, I could quote other members, on both sides of this house, whose thoughtless statements are greatly prejudicial to our coexistence.

The action which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) has just taken—and I have no doubt he is sincere—in accepting a French Canadian deputy leader, is also a positive action, which cannot but solidify the alliance between the two nations.

[Text]

I might never have a better occasion, Mr. Speaker, to call upon the elite of the English speaking population of the province of Quebec, Protestant as well as Roman Catholic, to go out of Quebec and say how they are not treated in Quebec as a minority but as equal partners. That would help the French minorities in other provinces who have so much trouble in getting fair treatment in the education of their children.

When I talk like this, Mr. Speaker, do not think I am a fanatic; because during the term I served as president of the Longueuil school board I worked toward the erection of only

one school and that one school was for the English students of Longueuil.

We belong, Mr. Speaker, to two nations but we live in one great country. We agreed to get together, for better or for worse, in 1867. If our marriage cannot be one of love, let us make it one of reason. If one of the partners is not happy, we should listen carefully to find out what can be done. One of the reasons la belle province gets mad sometimes and asks for a divorce is that her partner is too tight with the money. We should give her a proper share so she could pay for her own expenses and live on a sound budget. If la belle province is jealous it is because her partner is flirting too much with other nations on occasion and forgets her.

We all feel, Mr. Speaker, that there is something wrong. Let us, therefore, sit together around a table to discuss these matters. Then if things have to be changed, if a new marriage contract has to be signed—after all it is 100 years old—to make both partners happy, let us get together and do it. Let us start a new honeymoon in 1967, the year of our one hundredth anniversary.

[Translation]

Seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford), I move that the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency General the Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Military Cross and the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

[Text]

Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, may I first thank hon. members of the house on both sides for the very tumultuous welcome that I have been given this afternoon. Yesterday Her Majesty's representative, His Excellency, welcomed us to the second session of the twenty sixth parliament. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in assuring His Excellency, through you, Mr. Speaker, of our pleasure in being able to welcome him to this particular parliament and in seeing that his return to health is such as to allow him to personally deliver the speech from the throne.

I should like too, Mr. Speaker, to join with my friend the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Cote) in offering to the ministers who are taking on new jobs, and to the new ministers, my very sincere congratulations