

*National Centennial Act*

many years, because French Canadians never forgave them for breaking their word.

There was conscription imposed upon French Canadians in 1942 by the Liberals, under Mr. Mackenzie King, when French Canadians in Quebec had been promised explicitly that never, under a Liberal administration, would a Canadian province be subject to conscription.

That is why, at that time, the prime minister of the day, Mr. Mackenzie King, was asking the Canadian provinces—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Caouette:** —to release him from a promise he himself had made to French Canadians of the province of Quebec.

There was this federal infringement, and for the information of my good friend the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Habel), those are facts and not reproaches, facts that I am bringing forward in order to prevent those things from happening again and to do away with discrimination.

This federal encroachment, in wartime, on the rights of the provinces in the field of personal income tax, corporation income tax, succession duties, rights which the government no longer wants to return to the provinces, is another example of a concession on the part of the provinces.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Caouette:** Certainly.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Is the hon. member for the resolution?

**An hon. Member:** He is reading Mr. Pearson's speech.

**Mr. Caouette:** No, I am not reading your leader's speech.

For the information of the President of the Privy Council, I will tell him that I am for the resolution, but if he will listen to me for a few moments, I will tell him why—

**An hon. Member:** Are you mad?

**Mr. Caouette:** I am explaining the reasons which lead me to share the opinion of the President of the Privy Council on the resolution presented by the Prime Minister, but my good friend, the President of the Privy Council, should be a little more patient. We heard him for two minutes this afternoon and we might have thought that he had been speaking for two hours. He should leave us some latitude.

Mr. Chairman, the matter of provincial rights which the central government took over during the war years—and will not relinquish now—will be discussed at the federal-provincial conference next week.

[Mr. Caouette.]

We have our small share in the federal civil service, in the contracts awarded by the government. Ottawa is, so to speak, the supreme court and it usually takes advantage of any matter that sets it against the provinces. In my opinion, another resolution to institute a court that would respect the provinces' rights is needed.

Mr. Chairman, like everyone else, we want to celebrate the centennial of confederation in 1967. Within three years, it rests with us to make of 1967 a year that will be favourable to the celebration of a centennial that will attract the attention of the whole population, throughout Canada; otherwise, in the meantime, we might see the rise of separatist, independentist movements, even fasting movements, not only in Quebec but in Ontario. As a matter of fact, we may even ask ourselves if we will not see the rise in Ontario of movements that will send us—as happened in the past—a thousand dollars, telling us: Get out of confederation.

Well, that is not what we want. We want to respect the meaning of confederation, we do not want that meaning to become saturated with prejudice but fully understood by all the members in this house. If, before 1967, we join hands—

**The Chairman:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Chairman, I feel that our leader had good reason to worry, during this debate, about certain appointments to the centennial commission. Obviously, we should celebrate the centennial of confederation and not that of a political party.

Therefore, in the national interest, I would ask the minister to reconsider those appointments so that the commission will be national rather than political in its scope and membership.

I feel the commission is too important for the minister not to revise the appointments.

Mr. Chairman, certain changes will have to be made—

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Would the hon. member allow me a question?

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Chairman, if the minister will be so good as to let me complete my remarks, he will have all the time he wants to speak later on.

At any rate, he was one of the first to speak and to criticize me indirectly. There is some mumbling on the other side of the house and I would ask the minister to let me speak; if he wishes to ask me some questions, he may do so when I am through.

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.