

*Canada Elections Act*

going to create preferential citizenship. Quite the contrary, this will see to it that in the future preferential citizenship ends. That is what I suggest we do. I do not think it is an unreasonable proposition.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Chairman, it had not been my intention to make any remarks during these proceedings, but having heard a great many of the observations made this morning I would like to say this is one of the few genuine debates I have heard this session, an extemporary debate of the type that is supposed to take place in the House of Commons. If nothing else we are perhaps finishing off the session on a good note.

Most of my remarks have been adequately expressed by the hon. member for Ontario and the hon. member for Hillsborough, and I do not wish to take up the time of the committee with repetition. But there are one or two other points which should be brought to the attention of some hon. members for their consideration.

Even since I became a member of the House of Commons I have always supported legislation designed to bring closer together the people of French-speaking origin and those of English speaking origin, and I will continue to do so. But as was pointed out by the right hon. member for Prince Albert, trying to bring about unity in Canada is not always just a one-way street. It is not always what you do that counts. It is what you may appear to be doing that can be even more important. Like Caesar's wife, you must not only be pure but must appear to be pure.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, a certain impression has been created which was alluded to by the right hon. member for Prince Albert. It exists in parts of Canada, presumably in western Canada, perhaps in the Atlantic provinces, and I can tell you that most certainly it exists in large areas of Ontario. It is that an effort is being made by the present government to do a certain thing. This may not be true, it may not be the intention; I hope it is not. I certainly would not attribute such motives to the hon. member for Saint-Denis for whose sincerity I have a great deal of respect. But it is not a question of what one is doing; it is the impression that is being created.

I get around quite a bit, and during the last four or five years I have heard from all age groups and all classes of society remarks to the effect that the present government and its immediate predecessor have been doing everything they can to remove traditions of

[Mr. Cafik.]

an Anglo-Saxon nature. I am sorry to have to say this, but some of the members on the government side, and some members to my left do not appear to know it. There is a feeling in English-speaking Canada that there are attempts being made to destroy traditions of an Anglo-Saxon nature but none to destroy those of a French-Canadian character.

This is not a good thing for the unity of our country. I am not suggesting that this is what is being done or what is intended, but that is the appearance that is being created in English-speaking Canada. Make no mistake about that, Mr. Chairman, and I hope some of my friends from Quebec will not make a mistake about it in the future. I am sorry to have to say this, but as we are talking about national unity I must say we are not going to achieve it by proceeding to step on one of the major ethnic groups, one of the major cultural groups, in this country. This is keenly resented.

I have no apology to make for making these remarks. I have supported every measure that has been presented by successive governments to bring about greater unity in this country. But I would point out, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North, the right hon. member for Prince Albert and others, that you do not create national unity by giving the impression—I do not say it is the intention—of deliberately trying to remove some of the background and traditions of those who make up a very large segment of the country. You do not help things by doing that, and certainly that is the appearance that is given.

I would hope that those in authority will give very careful consideration to this. It is often the appearance of things that causes uneasiness and ill will. After all, the cabinet is certainly dominated by members from the province of Quebec. The right hon. Prime Minister, the Secretary of State, and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, whether they deserve the accolade or not, are generally regarded as running the government, and when one sees one action after another, and this is just one more link in the chain, it does not do anything to achieve unity.

I would hope that hon. members on both sides of the House, but particularly on the government side, listened with great care to what has just been said by my very good friend, albeit he is a member of the government party, from Ontario. He expressed views which are very much in the minds of those of us from that part of the country.