

1,080,620 -- or 25.5 per cent -- resulted from immigration.

During this period as well, important changes occurred in the distribution of the total population by ethnic groups.

In 1951, 47.9 per cent were British, 30.8 per cent French and 21.3 per cent from other ethnic origins. In 1961, the equivalent breakdown was 43.8 per cent, 30.4 per cent and 25.8 per cent, respectively. It is noteworthy that a 4.5 per cent increase in the proportion of the population of other than British or French origin took place in this time-span. In view of the changes made in the Immigration Regulations since 1961, I believe that we can expect a continuation of this trend.

With a constant and large flow of immigrants entering Canada each year, what happens to immigrants is a vital concern for all of us who are interested and involved in forging a strong and united Canada.

We have learned from the postwar movement of peoples that the role which an immigrant plays in his new country depends upon many factors: his legal rights, his occupational qualifications in relation to employment opportunities, the attitude of the receiving population, and his own psychological reactions to this new environment. As Canadians, we must ensure that these legal rights are guaranteed, that suitable employment opportunities are available, that newcomers are treated as equals, and that the immigrant is helped in adjusting to his new environment.

We are in the midst of a vital debate in this country on our future. In our centennial year we have reason to be proud of our achievements in many fields. Our prospects for growth, prosperity and increasing world influence are excellent. At the same time, however, 1967 has brought to the fore some basic issues which must be faced squarely by every Canadian -- whatever his ethnic origin, whatever his place of residence, whatever his occupation. The question of unity involves us all.

French Canada has now awakened to embrace the technological and social advances of the twentieth century. This awakening has altered the terms in which we can look at Canada's future. The French-Canadian has not changed his sense of community -- it is just as strong as it ever was; but his ability to promote the interests of his community has greatly increased. Thus Canadian unity cannot imply a homogeneous society -- the attempt to create such a society would be the surest way to lead to the disintegration of our country.

The people of Canada, I think, appreciate this reality and are prepared to seek ways of incorporating it into the conception of a greater Canada. There are two objectives. The first is to ensure that French Canada can survive and grow as a distinct community within Canada. The second is to convince French Canada that it has an essential role to play in building a united Canada.