

The Address—Mr. Perron

an assessment of the problems of the province of Quebec had been made and that an assistant leader was appointed, indeed, a new Sir Georges Etienne Cartier. Some newspapers went even so far as to speak of a Georges Etienne Balcer. But it does seem at last that a great deal of importance is being attached to national unity.

Yet, appeals in favour of national unity have often been heard. There was one made in 1940-41, when compulsory military service was imposed on the province of Quebec despite its clearcut opinion expressed in a plebiscite. This was done, it was claimed, for the sake of good understanding, and French Canadians in Quebec showed comprehension in accepting that decision.

A French Canadian leader was then introduced and he also spoke to us about the good understanding that existed and national unity.

Nevertheless, the country's economic problems have kept on increasing without any solution being found.

On June 19 last, I put on the order paper a question in which I asked for statistics concerning the gross national product, in constant and current dollars. The answer was that in 1950 the gross national product reached \$17,471,000,000 in constant dollars and that in 1962 it had reached \$28,111,000,000 in constant dollars also, that is an increase of 60 per cent.

In the same answer I was also given some information regarding average annual earnings of Canadian wage earners, again in constant dollars. From a level of \$42.54 in 1950, that average income had reached \$58.47 in 1962, that is an increase of 37 per cent, compared to a 60 per cent increase in the gross national product.

And there are still super-economists who claim that the solution to the problem of distribution is to increase productivity.

And yet, others understand also that it is essential to consider the Canadian consumer. As a matter of fact, a member of the New Democratic party said recently in this house that the chief objective of any such program should be to gear the Canadian economy to the needs of the consumer.

In my opinion, it is precisely in that field that we should explore the possibilities offered by a truly distributive economy, so as to enable Canadians to consume at least the goods they are able to produce. Thanks to their physical labour and their intelligence, and by means of machinery and scientific progress, Canadians are able to produce. That is not the problem.

Mr. Speaker, a clarion call for national unity has been sounded. But if the conditions now existing in the province of Quebec are considered, it is realized that speeches

or attacks against extremists or so-called separatists will not succeed in solving the problems which we are now facing.

It has been suggested that the results of the by-election in Montreal-Laurier was a sort of test case indicating that Creditistes did not represent the province of Quebec. In fact, the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne referred to the fact that since the Creditistes candidates had lost their deposit, it was normal to conclude that the Ralliement Creditistes had lost much ground in the province of Quebec. If one refers to the number of deposits which were lost, one can speak of the loss of popularity of the Liberal party in the 1962 election.

But in my opinion, that is not a solution. It is not with such statements that one can claim that the death knell of the Ralliement Creditistes has been rung to some degree when we have not even had yet to face the voters. And that is certainly not a way to draw the bonds of friendship closer between the two great races in Canada. And with respect to the province of Quebec, we are not the only ones to express those views in public.

We are called extremists. Still, our demands are not contrary to the interests of the other provinces. We simply claim what we are entitled to in the province of Quebec, by virtue of the constitution, just like the other provinces.

Certain statements made by persons who are not in parliament are even more extremist and daring. I have in mind Mr. Francois-Albert Angers who, before the members of the St. Jean Baptiste society, mentioned precisely the last chance given Canada, the problems of Quebec and French Canadians in the state of Quebec. These statements were published in most Canadian newspapers. He said in particular: It is no longer up to French Canadians to take new chances, it is up to the Canadians in the other provinces to take, if there are any left, the chances needed for the survival of our confederation. Those are the words spoken by Mr. Francois Albert Angers, economist, professor at the school of higher commercial studies.

We heard also the minister of natural resources in the Quebec cabinet reply to journalists who asked him if he believed that the future of Quebec lay solely and exclusively in separatism: "Not necessarily separatism but separatism if necessary". In my opinion, that is much more extremist and much more separatist than the complaints we have voiced here ever since we came to this house.

We are not making unfair claims, we are only requesting that our colleagues take