

*Interim Supply*

those who adopt the Liberal philosophy or support the Liberal policy in Quebec or elsewhere. In fact, it is suggested that nothing was done in Quebec before the present provincial administration took over in 1960. To deny that projects were carried out prior to 1960 is simply to deny the truth. Those who studied what happened before 1960, in the province of Quebec, are in a position to note that under the provincial administrations that were in office before the present one, all our schools and our education system made tremendous progress. More than 4,000 schools were built in the province of Quebec, and it is absolutely false to say that nothing was done in our province before 1960. People who say that are simply giving those who claim that we are not qualified one more reason to refuse us key posts in our industries.

If, in fact, nothing was done before 1960, those who claim that we are not entitled to key posts in industry or elsewhere, because of our lack of qualifications, would be right. But a lot was done and I repeat what I said at the beginning of my remarks: the graduates from our universities, our secondary schools, are just as qualified today to hold those key posts as they were before the present government, that is the Liberal government, took office in the province of Quebec.

I commend the present Liberal authorities for the impulse they are trying to give to education in our province. I believe that all those who take an interest in the vital question of education will encourage any party that seeks to improve the training given our young people and advance the cause of education. But the cause of education has not progressed to a satisfactory level. The programs of our schools and colleges have not been modified sufficiently during the last two years for anyone to claim that before 1960 our education system was nil in Quebec and that at last today perfection has been attained for the sole reason that there is a new political regime in Quebec city.

Intellectuals who are anxious to acquire culture would have occupied as high a rank before 1960 as they do now under the present government.

But to say that intellectual activity has existed in the province of Quebec only for two years is, unfortunately, using political arguments for the sole aim of convincing

voters that they are better off with one party instead of the other, but that is not so, actually.

A few moments ago, the Leader of the Opposition suggested in most convincing terms that a federal-provincial conference should be called for the consideration of this problem of applying integral bilingualism and giving a fair share to our people in the civil service and in crown corporations. There is merit in that suggestion and, as I said before, a federal-provincial conference will be called at the beginning of the year in order to determine, in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, what is needed and should be done in order to endow our nation with the symbols of its sovereignty.

All those steps should be taken and all those problems studied most carefully, in a spirit of good will, as mentioned earlier by the member for Lapointe (Mr. Gregoire) when he said that he had noticed among his English speaking colleagues in the house a desire for Canadian unity, similar to that which exists in the province of Quebec.

Such an atmosphere should prevail during this conference when all those other steps will be taken jointly by Canadians called upon to settle this most important question of national unity.

I feel that it would now be proper to ask all Canadians to write to their members of parliament and send suggestions on matters pertaining to the emblem of unity that we want, to that sovereignty which is so essential, because as long as the Canadian people will not rally around those symbols, the principle of a bi-ethnic and bilingual culture will not be fully respected. Unfortunately, we shall witness demonstrations similar to those staged following the incident which involved the president of the C.N.R. We shall see other such incidents multiply and give rise to all kinds of uneasiness which far from bringing us together, will draw us apart, thus almost justifying those who see in false theories an answer to our problems.

No, Mr. Chairman, far from separating, we must unite more than ever, here in Canada. Far from separating, we must understand the necessity of joining around the symbols of sovereignty I mentioned earlier.

At a time when the nations of the world, having understood at last, after so many