

The Address—Mr. Gregoire

in 1962, and the estimated value of residential construction reached a new high of approximately \$1,800 million, which was roughly more than \$300 million above the previous year.

Now what do we read in *Le Soleil* of Quebec, of February 22, page 15?

It is to be noted, however, that in 1962 the value of construction reached an unprecedented figure of \$31 million, whereas in 1963, the 2,100 and odd permits amounted to \$17,551,000.

Thus a decrease of nearly \$14 million or 50 per cent. It says further:

One hundred and seventy one constructions were started in 1963, for a total of 963 housing units; in 1962, there had been 194 constructions for a total of 1,134 housing units.

Therefore, under the new legislation, there is some improvement throughout the country, but the situation is worse in the province of Quebec.

There is another legislation that is discriminatory to the people of the province of Quebec: the Income Tax Act with receipts for charitable donations deductible from the net income. That part of the act may be advantageous to the country as a whole, but it is bad for the province of Quebec: it forces the parish priest to be inconsistent, it sets him against his parishioners, it sets the latter, as well as the director of taxation, against the parish priest and so on. The federal Income Tax Act has given rise to contradictions between all those elements, so that it is now discriminatory to the people of the province of Quebec, who grumble about it.

There are several other fields where you find that legislation, as written in Ottawa, is suited to the nine other provinces but not to the mentality, the temperament and the characteristics of the French Canadian group which is developing in Quebec.

In most cases, as I said before, federal legislation discriminates against the citizens of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is not to tear everything down, to separate the country, to divide everything, to destroy existing institutions; it is necessary to find a radical solution that will satisfy everyone.

Let no one call us extremists because we come up with a radical solution. There was talk the other day about the extremists of Quebec.

Before setting forth this drastic solution, I wish to say a few words about extremism. There are two kinds of extremism: one which consists in opposition to progress, stagnation, not moving ahead; the other, in a too rapid evolution, an unlimited one which is beyond the reach of this human world.

I feel that in this house and in the federal government, today, there are more extremists in the sense of being opposed to progress

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and in favour of stagnation than there are, in the province of Quebec, extremists who stand for unlimited change.

Let us keep that in mind and try to reach a solution that is not extreme. Even if it is a radical one, such a solution could serve as a basis for discussion, and then it will be possible to come to an understanding.

I maintain that this country is made up, not of ten provinces, but of two nations. Here, it should be noted that, to our way of thinking, the word "nation" in French does not have the meaning it has in English to English Canadians. To me, the word "nation" does not mean "country"—

[Text]

A nation is not a country. We could have two nations in Canada and only one country. That is what we mean by "nation". The definition in English and in French is not the same.

[Translation]

There are two nations in this country, and if each nation is allowed to develop according to its own characteristics, with all legislative, executive and legal powers it needs to solve its specific problems, it will be possible to agree on the other problems which concern the whole country, from coast to coast.

Let us take, for instance, the problem of education. In my opinion it must be the responsibility of each ethnic group, French Canadian and English Canadian. I feel that no English Canadian in this country will be concerned with the fact that each nation has its education system under its entire and exclusive control. I think I know English Canadians well enough today to realize that they are usually businessmen who do care much about sentimentality; however, in politics they occasionally react according to their feelings.

The fact that the province of Quebec is called upon to control exclusively and entirely her educational system, should not disturb English Canadians in our country; they must let us proceed, since they do not bother at all about the type of educational system we have in the province, and they have never bothered.

As concerns hospitalization and medical care, the case is the same; there are features which are particular to the province of Quebec, and we should look exclusively after our hospitalization system.

The same applies to our agriculture, our highway system, the development of our natural resources and a number of other fields in which the province of Quebec is willing, able and bound to develop by itself,