

*National Centennial Act*

the two founding races appreciate their contributions, and they are not asking for anything else.

They are not looking forward to speeches. As the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre very ably put it, we do not expect to pass that year over just in speeches. We expect to take stock and show what we have achieved as a nation, to show we have achieved unity instead of fighting over whether or not it is the centennial of confederation, the centennial of Canada, or the centennial of what. No matter what it is, it is a centennial of the birthday of this nation, and this act can be called whatever the government pleases. They can railroad the name to suit, but it will still mean the centennial of the birthday of this nation as we know it, which took the best the French had to contribute, and also took the best the English had to contribute, British tradition, British fair play, and British justice. This is the best guarantee, not only to French Canadians but to us all, of these freedoms which we enjoy today. I said, Mr. Chairman, there were over 5 million of these people. They ask for the privilege of full participation. They do not fail to recognize the two founding races. We do not deny history; we are not going to deny history; we are not going to twist it to suit ourselves. They do not ask for official recognition, which is the impression some people have. I am proud of my racial origin and I am proud of being a Canadian. Some people think my compatriots expect official recognition. No, Mr. Chairman; that is a false statement for anyone to make. I do not pretend to speak for all these 5 million or more Canadians, but I know the people of the race from which I descended do not want to be hyphenated Canadians. I think hyphenation is coming back into fashion again; everything is hyphenated.

I do not want to get away from the resolution, Mr. Chairman. If I were to do what some hon. members have done, I would get away from the resolution that is before us, and I know you would permit me to do this because you have extended that privilege to others. I could cite many examples of where this hyphenation is in full swing across Canada today. In plain language, the people for whom I speak do not want to be left out of these birthday celebrations, because they are as concerned as the rest of us, if there are no second-class Canadians, if we are all Canadians. If not, let us put that on the statute books: we will have wood hewers and water carriers, and the elite, which is contrary to every concept of Canadianism and freedom that is on our statute books. These people want this because they owe political allegiance to Canada, and Canada alone. We have people

who came here and acquired citizenship by taking the oath of allegiance. Their children were born here, and in the eyes of the law they are full Canadian citizens and are entitled to all the privileges, as well as the obligations, inherent in Canadian citizenship. They owe allegiance to no other country. They have renounced the state from which they came. They may be interested in what is going on in their homeland, but they are Canadians and as such are interested in what is going on in the Congo, for example. We sent our boys out there, at the risk of being shot down by the negro tribes. We are interested in what is going on in the Gaza strip, where our boys are trying to keep peace between two warring nations. Some of these people in Canada who have acquired Canadian citizenship and are loyal Canadians are interested in what is going on in their homeland, particularly if their homeland is behind the iron curtain; but that does not mean they feel their allegiance is divided. They want to be recognized as participants in the corporate national life of Canada, while fully recognizing that there are two founding races. It is just the same as if you organized a partnership or corporation and two men entered into the business, and then, as business expanded, other people joined in. Are the first two people the only ones who have a share in this corporation? I think this is contrary to our bill of rights; it is contrary to our constitution, and it is contrary to everything that we believe in and that these people expected when they came to this country.

I think the word "national" is a word of pride. I do not know why people should take exception to it. If we are a nation, this is a national celebration and the purposes of this act would remain the same if it were called the national centennial act. If Canada is not a nation, what is it? Is it just a hyphenated monstrosity? No, Mr. Chairman, it is not.

I should now like to deal with what has been said by other hon. members. I listened with interest to the speeches of hon. members, and in particular that of the hon. member for Villeneuve, who spoke about some injustices and unfairnesses that exist in our constitution under the British North America Act. I say, Mr. Chairman, that if these things do exist, let us correct them, in all fairness. Why not? I am going to point out an injustice that is in the British North America Act—just one. This applies to those of French origin. I am not going to call them French Canadians, because I do not call anyone a hyphenated Canadian.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** The British North America Act guarantees the English full equality in Quebec, but gives no such guarantee to the