

*The Address—Mr. J. P. Cote*

favouritism, and without prejudice, a better balance between the provinces. Those bills were really welcome in Quebec. I shall, for instance, point out Bill No. C-107, to amend the National Centennial Act to read Centennial of Canadian Confederation Act, which permits Quebec to benefit from the various grants provided for permanent cultural achievements.

Let us also recall the act providing for assistance in the establishment of technical and vocational schools, which will ensure an additional \$65 million to the province of Quebec and, by this very fact, put all provinces on an equal footing.

I also would like to point out the changes in the portable pension plan, aiming at leaving to the provinces, the possibility of organizing their own program or of adhering to the national plan. There is also the option plan for municipal loans, the changes in the equalization system, giving an additional \$83 million to the provinces, of which Quebec will receive \$42 million. I shall also mention the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism. All that was achieved in a little more than 100 days of session.

Many other bills are required, and a great deal of new legislation can be passed without costing the treasury a cent.

Take, for instance, the amendment to the Criminal Code which would give every province the authority to organize a provincial lottery if it wanted to.

It is unthinkable that a province cannot have a lottery for social welfare purposes while billions of dollars are bet each year at race tracks. And that, not only in Quebec.

The adoption of a distinctive Canadian flag and of a national anthem at this session, Mr. Speaker, even if I see nothing about it in the speech from the throne, seems to be very logical. And the most favourable time would be on the occasion of the visit of the Queen to this country. As far as I am concerned, I would be proud to fly the union jack over my house, during the forthcoming royal visit, if only there was next to it a truly Canadian flag which would be that of my country. I am sure the hon. member for Lotbiniere (Mr. Choquette) would gladly accompany the Queen during that tour.

I feel strongly about a distinctive flag, not enough to start fasting until it is voted, but enough to keep pointing out the importance of such a measure to the right hon. Prime Minister and to the government.

I may be overanxious, Mr. Speaker, but I am sometimes inclined to forget that the Liberal party's platform must be carried out during one parliament and that, in fact, we are only beginning the second of the usual four sessions of a parliament.

[Mr. Cote (Longueuil).]

While we recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the government treated the provinces well during the last session, we must realize just the same that numerous requests will keep on coming through the representatives of the people sitting in this house.

It would be futile to believe that the voices of the provinces will be silent and that the strongest voice—that of reason—will be lost in the time that lies ahead.

But I want to assert to the country that the voice of the extremists—even though it receives much publicity—is not the voice of the vast majority of Quebecers, though its effect has been to shake the torpor and raise the voice of the moderates, whose duty it is to prove that Quebec has its place in confederation.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that everybody's opinion is to be respected, even that of the extremists. If they are sincere, it is not in abusing them that we shall make them change their minds. It is up to us to give them concrete evidence that their theory is wrong.

Separatism will not take root in this country because the French speaking Canadian has chosen above all security in solidarity and truth rather than insecurity in isolation and dreams.

But he will not stop fighting for his principles and his culture, and he will redouble his efforts to regain control over his economy.

For the realistic French Canadian, to stay in confederation is a challenge. He has to put up a fight, a fierce fight at times, not for his survival now but to achieve his full development in all fields and to protect his basic right to liberty in security, and this to the exclusion of any demagogic formula.

In his opinion, separatism is in effect a setback. He does not want to fall back. It is on the front line that the dialogue with the English speaking Canadian must be continued. But there cannot be any dialogue among deaf people. The French speaking Canadian wishes to become free, but peacefully, without gaining an independence which would amount to isolation in a very fragile glass shelter.

I am deeply convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the French speaking Canadian is determined to fill the part expected from him within confederation. He is determined to be a Canadian, but without abdicating his rights.

I ask French speaking Canadians—and not only my colleagues, Mr. Speaker—to remain nationalists, because we must be fully and really nationalists to keep our heritage and recover that to which we are entitled. But for pity's sake, let us not make the mistake of falling into sentimental extremism, for it