

*Canadian Centennial*

debate some of us urged that we should make a real attack on this problem of unemployment by instituting a long range development program. That approach was supported by hon. members now on the government side of the house.

I should like to mention, before going any further, that the idea of beginning well in advance to set up a committee and plan for our 100th anniversary was first suggested to me by my good friend of this city, Mr. Walter Mann. As a matter of fact he made the suggestion at a convention of our party in the province of Ontario seven years ago. To some it seemed somewhat far-fetched, at that time, to be proposing that we plan for an anniversary 17 years in advance, but seven of these years have already gone by, and as others, whose names I will quote in a moment, have suggested, there are times when plans ought to be made well in advance.

It is on that basis, bearing in mind the debt we owe to the dreamers of the past, bearing in mind the great potentialities of this country, and bearing in mind also the fact that things do not get done unless they are planned, planned boldly and planned well in advance, that I ask this house to consider seriously the suggestion contained in the resolution that the government take whatever steps are necessary to set up now a 100th anniversary committee, with provision for federal and provincial representation in the membership and work of such a committee.

I was interested in the support given to this idea over a year ago, in a very interesting article which appeared on the editorial page of the *Ottawa Journal* for Thursday, March 8, 1956. The article appeared under the well-known picture of the founders of confederation. It was entitled "Looking towards confederation's birthday" and was written by Mr. I. Norman Smith. I was interested in the fact that Mr. Smith, as he pointed out, wrote this article because he had had a discussion about Canada's 100th birthday with his friend Mr. Jules Leger, the under secretary of state for external affairs.

In this very interesting article Mr. Smith, on his own behalf and on behalf of his friend Mr. Leger, urges that we should begin now to plan for Canada's anniversary. He makes some interesting suggestions, among them that the Queen should come to Canada that year and perhaps be here on Dominion day and grace a special session of parliament; that NATO, or any successor organization, should hold its meetings in Canada that year; that the commonwealth prime ministers should meet here, and so on. Mr. Smith says that

the full session of the United Nations could not be held in Canada because of lack of facilities, but a two weeks' plenary session could be held here, leaving the administration in New York.

Further down the page in this article Mr. Smith says:

Another approach to making ourselves felt internationally might be to invite the British empire games for that year, or even the olympic games.

Then there are other suggestions; a scouts' jamboree, certain festivals, and so on, and then we come to a very interesting paragraph to which attention might be paid:

By 1967, surely, we should have agreed on a Canadian flag: and to get this agreement not all of the stubborn people live in Quebec province. Is not a country 100 years old expected to have a flag which if seen in Pakistan or Peru says "Canada" without mistake?

The whole article is full of interesting suggestions, and full of the challenging thought that if we are not careful, when July 1, 1967, comes along all we will have will be the fireworks and the speeches. We will have those; there is no doubt about that. But if we are wise and far-sighted, and if we begin planning now, we will be able to have celebrations really worthy of such a great occasion.

I like the last paragraph or two of Mr. Smith's article, in which he says that a celebration such as we would like to have in 1967 must be planned on many levels, federal, provincial, municipal and institutional; and that we, the people, must do the planning. At the end of his article Mr. Smith says:

Finally, it must be planned now, and by men with a vivid sense of history and future, men unafraid to be called dreamers. Put such men at work now for even three weeks and they would come up with a blueprint of something that could easily prove the best thing that has happened to this country since confederation.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Smith and Mr. Leger are not alone in their interest in Canada's 100th birthday. I have on my desk a number of newspaper clippings referring to a very interesting speech which the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. St. Laurent), who was then prime minister, made at Hamilton, Ontario, in March of this year. I was interested in the fact that most of the newspapers in this country covered the speech and gave it a good press, and this seemed to me to indicate that the challenge of the then prime minister to Canadians to think about the beginning of our second century struck a responsive chord in the hearts of our people. I could read any of the dispatches I have, but the one I have picked