

Youth Appreciation Week

needed all across Canada. Our country ranks 26th in the doctor-to-population ratio. Therefore, I wonder whether there are any possibilities of making representations to university faculties and medical colleges in Canada since, in my opinion, they have gathered more dust than prestige over the years and an effort should be made to make admission standards more flexible. For admission to medical faculties, the requirements are 80 per cent marks, which leads us to believe that those who get 80 per cent marks in pre-med are no doubt geniuses, whereas the same students, on completing their classes, will be less interested in practising medicine than in doing scientific research, so that future generations will build robots to look after the citizens' health needs, and that will be rather unfortunate.

All sorts of faculties should also be helped in their planning activities. In the province of Quebec, when only a few teachers were needed, lots of them were trained, with the result that teachers will be unemployed. A few sociologists were needed, thousands of them were trained, and many of them are now jobless.

Miss Bégin: There is one of them here.

Mr. Isabelle: There are some of them everywhere. This is why, Mr. Speaker, the suggestion of my colleague is excellent, but I suggest that more than pious wishes are needed to help our young people. All they want is to be helped. Of course love, whether in novels or in real life, is very important in the life of teenagers. It carries them into another world. Of course some are more mature and since youth is the best time in one's life, it is important to make young people understand that they must not waste those years.

It is often said that it is possible to make a career in politics. But politics is a passing thing which is just a stroke of luck, except for some people, like Sir John A. Macdonald, for instance, who said after the Speech from the Throne in 1867: We have built Canada, we shall now have to build Canadians.

• (1730)

We are now in 1973 and heaven knows how far we still have to go before reaching that objective. Youth can cause problems that affect us directly.

In the national capital area the issue of bilingualism is an important one, but I do not wish to stir up the fire. We will be talking about it in due time. I simply wanted to say to my colleagues representing ridings west of Toronto or from Ottawa to Vancouver that what has been lacking perhaps in the education of Canadians is that they could never understand each other because they could never get together. One must not forget that the jet service between Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal is in operation only since 1960. We can thank Air Canada for offering today cheap excursion fares to western Canada which are going to give us the chance to meet those we never knew, at least in the case of the young. It is less expensive to spend 15 days in Europe than in western Canada. So nobody wants to go there. This might come later; exchanges have already started and I know that this can continue because it means survival for Canada. If we

want survival we will have to get together and it is by talking to one another that we get to know one another better.

And I think we have failed miserably since 1867 by not trying to stimulate youth to bring about a united Canada. And when I say "united" I am not trying to play politics because I know that others have different opinions on the subject but I simply want to say that perhaps we missed the boat by not thinking about that.

This is so true that I have met people from Vancouver who were very quite excited about meeting French Canadians in Montreal; they had never set foot in Montreal. Then, all that they had heard had come from the news media and we know that even though they are not biased, they do not always faithfully report the news.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order please. The hon. member is delivering a very interesting speech but I wish to point out to him that the bill before us is not a bill related to the official languages, but Bill C-13, respecting national youth appreciation week.

Mr. Isabelle: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned the news media because they are referred to in the explanatory notes of this bill.

Therefore, I would invite you, Mr. Speaker, always to wear your glasses, which will make it easier for you.

I do not wish to take any more of the time of the House, but I would like to quote a word from Titus: "I lost my time today". He used to say that in particular when he had spent one day without finding an opportunity to help someone.

As a conclusion to my remarks, I wish to invite my colleagues to think over these words in the evening, when they get home. Perhaps we shall have, from now on, stronger speeches and perhaps our sessions will be shorter, more interesting, more practical for many Canadians.

The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) is an excellent former Liberal but, unhappily, he made a mistake, and I am sure that he is sincere when he speaks about Canadian unity.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate my hon. friend the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta for his excellent speech and in particular for the bill he brought forward, but as I said earlier, we should attempt to find other ways and means to help the young rather than to praise them for a week and forget them afterwards.

[English]

Mr. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to speak on this bill, not because I shall support it but because I recognize much of the good that is intended in it, even if I do not believe it should be before the House for decision. I should like to congratulate my colleague, the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier), for his excellent maiden speech. It makes some of us who have already spoken feel that perhaps we should wait a little longer before speaking again. The hon. member's speech was very good.

The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight) said he raised the subject as one of that group called youth. When