

## Different Mix

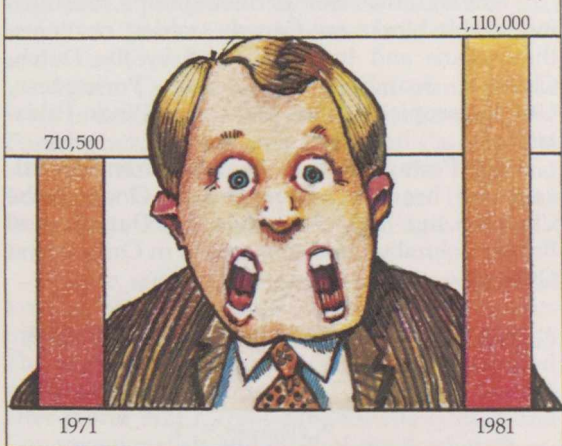
The United States, according to its latest census, has an ethnic makeup that includes the same groups as Canada's, but not in the same proportions.

The Census Bureau lists the descendants of the varied people of the British Isles separately.

About 50 million U.S. residents claim English descent, 49 million German. (The census takers believe it is possible the German group is the larger since some persons remotely German may have listed English because they identify with the language and because their surnames have been anglicized.)

The third group, 40,165,702, is Irish; the fourth, French, 12,892,246; the fifth, Italian, 12,183,692; and the sixth, Scottish, 10,048,816.

### FRENCH-SPEAKING ANGLOS



In 1971 only 24.5 per cent of the 2.9 million Canadians who could speak both French and English had English as their mother tongue. In 1981 there were 3.7 million, and 30 per cent were from English-speaking homes.

## Bilingualism

Canada was founded by the French and conquered by the English, and English and French have been the two official languages since Confederation.

Since 1969, when the Official Languages Act was passed, there has been a determined effort to put them on a practical parity. The goal has been a difficult one — to assure that all speakers of either tongue have easy access to federal services and to encourage as many Canadians as possible to learn both.

The 1981 census suggests that the effort so far has had a real, if limited, success. Although most Canadians still speak only one language, 3.7 million now speak both, an increase of some 800,000.

The greatest number of bilingual Canadians is still found among those who began with French, but the greatest gain has been among those who formerly spoke only English.

This reflects a continued, focused effort aimed at the young. There are now more than 100,000 English-speaking children involved in French immersion programs.

The most bilingual provinces are, as they have long been, Quebec and New Brunswick, the ones with the greatest proportion of French speakers.

Alberta made the most spectacular bilingual gain, much of it through migration from Quebec.

## Other Voices

Bilingual Canadians do not always speak English and French.

A good many have one of those languages plus another.

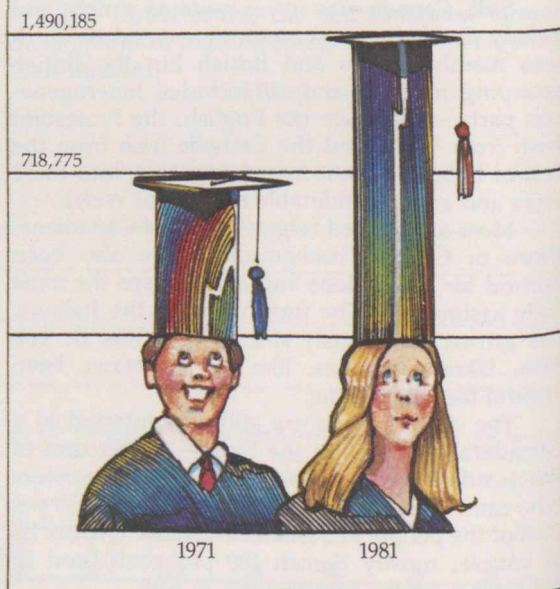
Next to English and French the language most spoken in Canada is Italian, though the number who speak it has declined since 1971. Chinese is fourth, German next and Portuguese is in sixth place. The seventh place category includes those who speak native Indian languages or Inuktitut.

## The Nth Degree

*We have no desire to create a nation of shopkeepers whose only thoughts run to groceries and to dividends. We want our people to look into the sun and into the depths of the sea.* M.M. Coady, *Adult Education in Canada* (1950).

In 1981 Canadians had more formal education

### UNIVERSITY GRADS



Between 1971 and 1981 the number of Canadians with university degrees more than doubled, from 4.8 per cent of the population to 8 per cent.