

*The Address—Mr. Faulkner*

possible if we will only remember what Sir Winston Churchill told the British House in 1911, that the congestion of parliament is a disease but the futility of parliament is a mortal disease. If we are mindful of this, it may not be an overstatement to say that it is in the interests of both the government and the opposition, and indeed of parliament itself, to ensure that the twenty-seventh parliament gets things done and gets them done with some efficiency.

During the past few years, Mr. Speaker, much has been said and much has been done to define and promote a meaningful and historically valid concept of Canadian unity. Much is said in the Speech from the Throne in the same vein. The concept of equal partners in confederation, recognizing as it does the basic duality of this country's origins, is a concept which is much better understood and, I would suggest, supported in far wider circles than ever before. If I might be permitted to say this as a personal observation, in my view much of the credit for this development goes to our present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson).

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

**Mr. Faulkner:** It is my belief that a much greater share of the burden of promoting this concept will in the future, as it should have been in the past, be shared by the members of this house. We who work at the very point where all ten provinces meet must surely be the ones that bear the primary responsibility for fostering and strengthening Canadian unity. In the past too many of us have abrogated our responsibilities in this regard, leaving it to certain Canadian newspaper editors, journalists and provincial politicians to tell the people of this country what in fact has been done in this connection. It is my hope that this will change.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are some people who would have us believe that the French fact and the English fact are irreconcilable, that the one can only flourish and grow at the expense of the other. To my mind this line of reasoning is just as outmoded, just as outdated and just as pessimistic as the line of reasoning which insists that the interests of management and labour are irreconcilable. These are both nineteenth century doctrines and should have no place at this time in our history. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, they can have if we lack the imagination to conceive of new categories of thought to order our relations as people and producers. We have made some progress in the past, particularly

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in the past few years. However, to find an answer to the problem posed by Canadian dualism, a problem which, paradoxically, offers tremendous opportunities, we cannot be constantly looking at European experience. We must study the Canadian facts; we must discover what has been authentic and best and valuable within our own traditions, and we must build from there with much greater originality and courage than heretofore. In short, Mr. Speaker, we have plagiarized from other countries for far too long in the formation of our national identity.

Unhappily, there has developed a certain unnecessary overlapping between the question of Canadian unity and the question of dominion-provincial relations. There are those who would argue that the true test on one's sincerity in supporting the concept of equal partners in confederation is whether or not one is willing to see the jurisdiction of the provinces, in particular the province of Quebec, grow at the expense of the federal authority. I reject this thesis utterly.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, the true test of partnership lies, for instance, in our willingness to accept the greater participation of French speaking Canadians in the higher echelons, and indeed the highest echelons, of the federal civil service and in the senior ranks of our defence establishment.

As the Speech from the Throne puts it:

—it is of the utmost importance that Canadians in all parts of the country should look to Ottawa as its true capital where they can feel at home.

To this end, Mr. Speaker, there is this commitment by the government:

To this end my government will continue to work toward the broadening of the bilingual character of the public service. The national capital should increasingly reflect the nature of the Canadian society.

Our ability to fulfil this promise is the best test of our willingness to be partners in confederation. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I should like to express also certain misgivings which I feel sure are shared by a large proportion of my constituents. These are misgivings about the direction in which dominion-provincial conferences are taking our federal system. It is not my purpose to criticize what has happened up till now but I do feel we have reached a point where we must ask ourselves whether or not the dominion-provincial conference is still the best vehicle for dealing with the immediate problems of our federal system.