

of Great Britain. The fact that this view was challenged in the house by the Secretary of State and the hon. member for Eglinton establishes conclusively that the interpretation of the man on the street must be held by a number of people. The fact that another interpretation has been given by those hon. members will not, I feel, affect public thinking very materially.

Why not, then, when this bill is before the committee, take advantage of the opportunity to clear up any possible misunderstanding? If the term "British subject" means simply a subject of His Majesty the King, what possible injury can there be to stating it clearly? Why not call a spade a spade?

I am not going to attempt to make a legal argument at this time. After the rebuke the legal profession got yesterday from the hon. member for Cape Breton South, and in the other place from the premier of Prince Edward Island, one would be well advised to tread other ground. I am going to follow another line of reasoning which I hope will appeal to hon. members.

My two boys, aged five and seven, are proud to wear suits made from my old clothes. I presume most boys who are not too sophisticated feel the same way about this time-honoured custom. I anticipate however that before many years they will take the view that they are too old to be subject to such practice, and no doubt they will suggest that the old clothes be used by the younger brothers. Whether or not the other countries of the commonwealth have grown enough to wear new clothes of their own is for them, and them alone, to decide. Personally, I feel that this country is old enough and has sufficiently proved its maturity during two wars to justify its position and insist on wearing distinctive garments in the matter of a distinctive Canadian citizenship and a thoroughly distinctive Canadian flag. Just as the father, whose grown up son wants to wear new clothes, will admit the fairness of his son's request, and refuse to interpret his action as a decrease of filial love, in like manner Great Britain, I am sure, does and will recognize the reasonableness of our point of view as a young nation and refuse to interpret our gesture as irreverential.

I have always understood that the Anglo-Saxon people are practical business men, possibly the shrewdest in the world. Those of my cultural group are considered more sentimental. I do not mean that the Anglo-Saxons are not emotional, and that the French have no business acumen. The fact remains, however, that Great Britain understands particularly well the language of dollars

[Mr. Michaud.]

and cents, and judging by what we did for ourselves during the last session, even members of parliament understand the language of dollars and cents. All this, Mr. Chairman, leads to the point which I wish to make, in all earnestness, seriousness and good faith, namely, that Great Britain is much more vitally concerned about the loans from Canada and the United States, and quite correctly so, than about nationalist bills of small consequence, as referred to by the *Ottawa Journal*. Assuming that we adopt this amendment, and adopt a truly distinctive flag, and make the loan of one billion and a quarter dollars to Great Britain, the sum total, in my opinion, will be a considerable strengthening of our ties to Great Britain, and this will prevail for the next fifty-five years whether we want it or not. I do not believe that there is anybody in this house, even among the young ultra-nationalists, who does not wish the fullest measure of cooperation with Great Britain, and the other really democratic countries of the world.

May I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to make an appeal to those who seem unduly concerned about the nature of our relationship with Great Britain and other countries of the commonwealth?

Shortly after parliament convened in March an hon. member of the group opposite, for whom I have a great deal of consideration but who is particularly concerned about the fate of Great Britain, asked me what would be the attitude of the Quebec members on the loan to Great Britain. When I assured him that not more than five or six members would oppose the measure from this side of the house, he appeared to be greatly relieved and personally, I was pleased to have so easily allayed his fears. I mention this incident *en passant* to point out that very often some members opposite—probably as a result of reading a press that is not always too sympathetic—get unduly concerned about the attitude of Quebec. I feel that I know that province far better than hon. gentlemen opposite, and I wish to assure them that they need fear nothing sinister on the part of Quebec.

In the course of the present and past session numerous appeals have come, mostly from the Progressive Conservative members, urging a greater degree of national unity in this country. It was apparent to me that those appeals were directed mostly to the Quebec people through their duly elected representatives in this house. A foreigner listening to such appeals might very easily come to the conclusion that this country is handicapped by a very serious lack of national unity, particularly