

* Canadian unity is now in another difficult period. These difficulties have common causes. For some years, Canadians have been more than ever conscious of the encroachment of American culture. They feel that they are gradually losing control of their economy. On the other hand, they realize that their standard of living, which they do not want to see lowered, depends in a very large measure on the export of our products to the United States and the import of American capital. This is the reason why they realize that political independence cannot in itself be very effective in changing an economic situation which has become inseparable from prosperity.

* This situation inevitably gives rise to frustration. A very few English-speaking Canadians regret and look to the past. A few others are tempted to stop resisting and become Americans. However, the great majority have decided to react positively to the American encroachment, to accentuate their identity as Canadians and to get closer to their fellow French-speaking Canadians.

Not Flight but Resistance

* In short, the solution to the problem is not flight but resistance. When it is impossible to prevent this encroachment, one has to attempt to assimilate and control it.

In meeting this problem - and others concerned with maintaining our identity, we must first rebuild our political and economic society in terms of the problems and needs of contemporary world. It means that both the founding races must meet together more often and become better acquainted. I am convinced that such closer relations will be mutually profitable. I also think that the common sources and similar nature of so many of the problems of English-speaking Canada and French-speaking Canada will give us a chance to get closer and to understand each other better. Basically, we have the same problems, and to find the right solutions we need each other. In this field, at least, we are inseparable.

We are also inseparable in the sense that hundreds of thousands of English-speaking Canadians reside in Quebec, and nearly a million French-speaking Canadians live outside Quebec. This latter fact has been officially recognized by the government of Quebec, when it created a Department of Cultural Affairs. Quebec, in this sense, is more than a province -- it is a motherland, but a motherland in a Confederation in a national partnership.

Progress Slow but Sure

* The bringing together of the two groups requires, amongst other things, that English-speaking Canada be more conscious of the aspirations of French-speaking Canada and that the latter be not too impatient if it finds that this consciousness seems slow to express itself. Real progress is being made from one generation to another. For example, the Bourassa doctrine on Canadian nationalism,