

"The sense of being imposed on is not necessarily a sign of paranoia. It is the natural consequence of the Canadian's universal sense of being one of a minority. If he is a French Canadian or a Menonite, a Doukhobor or an Indian, he lives in a state of lifelong vigilance to avoid being absorbed into the English-speaking majority within Canada. And if he is an English-speaking Canadian, he sees himself in a similar state of perpetual vigilance against being absorbed by the even greater majority of Americans among those who speak English in North America. Such attitudes have the virtue that they preclude not only uniformity, but also the fevers of aggressive patriotism."

GEORGE WOODCOCK, *Canada and the Canadians*, 1970

will fail miserably and be the laughing stock of the country. There is a rosy one, which says we are going to produce elements of a third option — we are very careful, always, to say "elements of a third option" — and that the opposition parties in Quebec will pick up some of our views, that the leaders of the English-speaking provinces will find all kinds of affinities, that even Mr. Trudeau will find our views wise.

Many English-speaking Canadians came to our hearings as members of unity groups. You might say that we are progressing rather rapidly. Is it rapid enough? The question always is, will it be fast enough? Will Quebecers realize that they should not push beyond a certain point, that they should say, "well we've gained enough to believe that the rest of the way we can walk together"? I don't know. When you think that in this country fifteen years ago, the fights were on bilingual menus and bilingual cheques and a national flag, and that sort of thing, you can only rejoice at the heavy progress that has been made.

**Q: Can Canada learn from the United States' experience as a pluralistic society?**

**A:** The basic definition of Canada is that we are not like the Americans, no disrespect, we just want to be different. I find it rather amusing



that in western Canada a number of people now appear to be dedicated to the idea of a melting pot, when in the United States they appear to have departed from that old philosophy. The American ambassador told me that there are fifty-five ethnic radio stations in Connecticut. Maybe the United States is not such a melting pot after all.

## Bill 101

French became the only official language in Quebec on 26 August 1977, when the National Assembly passed Bill 101, "The Charter of the French Language." Two provisions have attracted much attention.

English-language schools are permitted to enroll only pupils who meet at least one of four requirements: (1) a parent was a pupil in an English-language elementary school in Quebec, (2) a parent living in Quebec at the time of the bill's passage went to an English-language elementary school outside Quebec, (3) the child was enrolled in a public English-language school in Quebec the year before the bill's passage, (4) the child's older brother or sister was enrolled in a public English-language school in Quebec in

the previous year. Families from other parts of Canada and from abroad who are planning to live temporarily in Quebec can send their children to English-language schools for a three-year period. If they continue to live in Quebec, the option can be extended for another three years.

Businesses in Quebec with over fifty employees will be required to conduct their internal affairs and their affairs with the French-speaking community in French after 1983. There are special provisions for the branches of multi-national corporations.

The law drew much opposition. Many parents who could not meet the school qualifications but wished their children to be instructed in English, often for reasons of eventual economic oppor-