

their development, our principle cultures, French and English speaking, and even our other cultures, have grown up in isolation. This cultural poverty and isolation are two of the main sources of tension in our country today. It is because of them that some people in Canada believe that survival is only possible in isolation and that others cannot appreciate the contribution of a culture different from their own. Those two forms of cultural separatism are no longer possible in Canada, for, as the eminent Canadian historian Frank Underhill stated last summer at the Couchiching Conference:

"There are too many cultural influences today which cross and re-cross national boundaries for a doctrinaire cultural separatism to be viable. And this, of course, is something which we English Canadians need to remember also when we reject opportunities to learn the French language and to enrich our own culture. Cultural interrelationships may be dangerous, but cultural isolationism is in the long run fatal."

Body and Spirit Out of Balance

Our cultural poverty is the origin of our present tension in yet another way. For, when we compare this poverty with our economic progress, it reveals a deep imbalance between body and spirit which years ago the celebrated French philosopher Henri Bergson noted in the modern world.

Bergson described the powerful mechanical extensions of man's body through modern technology, extensions which outpaced the development of man's spirit. "Now, in this body so immeasurably enlarged" said Bergson, "the spirit remains what it was, too small to fill the body, too weak to give the body direction... That explains the dangerous social, political and international problems that are so many indications of that void and which, to fill such a void, give rise today to so much unco-ordinated and ineffectual effort... The enlarged body awaits an addition to the spirit."

Since 1867, as I said before, our country has developed materially at an accelerated pace. And yet that wealth has left an increasing void in the lives of our people. We, too, are in need of "an addition to the spirit", and we shall obtain it only if we intensify our cultural life, if we enrich our two main cultural strains, and if we make both of them meet more often.

We need a spiritual reinforcement to provide cultural exchange and enrichment among Canadians, to help us escape the spiritual "wasteland" - if I may use that shivering word among you broadcasters - the spiritual wasteland of our utilitarian tradition, and also to assist us to find a new identity as Canadians, for which we need Canadian information, about ourselves and about others, whether news or entertainment, supplied and clarified by Canadians in our national interest.

Tradition of Non-Intervention

In cultural matters, I think we have adhered much too closely to the American tradition of non-intervention by government. As a result, our