

phones, a province which anglophones love as much as francophones who live there do.

I spent some time yesterday listening to the hot-line programs across the province of Quebec. I can tell the people of the municipality of Sault Ste. Marie that if their message was meant to encourage an improvement, it has not done so. It has only made things worse, as predictably it would. It makes it look as if this country has forgotten the openness or accommodation which is the essential ingredient of our creation as a country and the key to our good fortune as a country.

We never had the choice in Canada of being the monolithic culture which some countries are and which for some has given meaning to their national identity. We do not have that choice today. If we try to deny our diversity and suppress our differences, we will destroy ourselves.

The second example that I wanted to refer to is also a small incident in itself, small in a sense that it takes no one's rights away, but it directly affects the dignity of Canadians. I am referring to the rash of racist buttons which are being sold and eagerly bought by some in western Canada. As I say, these buttons do not take rights away, but they do attack the dignity of those they insult. They are most hurtful in their portrayal of non-whites as inferior races who are not a cultural match for whites.

This could be ignored as nonsense if it was not so hurtful. The false portrayal of the so-called sad plight of the whites in Canadian society makes a statement very far from true about the status of whites in Canada in every category of status comparison with non-whites. It is deplorable if not illegal and, while no one suffers the loss of rights, I ask the people who wear them to consider how it makes young Sikhs, young blacks, young Indians, and young orientals who were born in Canada feel when they see these insults.

• (1020)

In conclusion, the resolution is moved because it is not enough to identify problems. It is not enough to put in place national institutions, as we have done, or those which we will establish today to address these problems. We need to call on all Canadians who recognize what is at stake, who see that something precious is in danger, that our heritage is in danger and that our future

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together is in danger, to speak out. For the worst to triumph all that is required is for good people to remain silent.

Mr. Allmand: Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the hon. member on his very worth-while motion. It is a motion which asks this House to condemn intolerance and urges the government to play a role in strengthening understanding and respect among Canadians.

As the member knows, yesterday was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. It is a landmark statement with respect to tolerance and understanding. It is a report which recommended tolerance in language rights, and which said that both francophones and anglophones in this country should have the right to use their own language, to have their own schools, to have their own institutions such as radio, television and health institutions. Unfortunately, 25 years later progress has been uneven.

The hon. member mentioned in his speech the recent decision by the city council at Sault Ste. Marie, a very unfortunate and prejudicial decision directed against francophones. We deplore and condemn that action. On the other hand, we have the passage of Bill 178 in Quebec, passed against the judgment of the Supreme Court by the use of the notwithstanding clause. Therefore, we have instances of intolerance and prejudice both directed against francophones and directed against anglophones.

I would ask the member if he has some suggestions to make to the House with respect to not only the situation in Sault Ste. Marie, but also to the fact that the Government of Quebec would pass a law which I believe to be an intolerant law forbidding the use of languages other than French, even though the Supreme Court suggested that the Government of Quebec might mandate the use of French but should not ban the use of other languages. It even recognized the priority of the French language in Quebec.

What recommendations can the member make to this House, since he is the initiator of this motion, to bring about greater understanding and peace, not only in Quebec between anglophones and francophones but throughout the country, and to move ahead in the true