

*Interim Supply*

to have to admit their failure to unify their own country in any real and meaningful sense, which means unity without sacrificing special and separate values. No Canadian, surely, could contemplate with anything but bitter regret the weakening, let alone the failure, of confederation, especially when Canada has grown so much in stature and achieved so much respect in the world.

But we cannot afford to be complacent about this. The world around us shows that nations, when reasonable and acceptable compromises are postponed or are offered too late, will resort to desperate solutions which earlier had appeared to be unthinkable to them, and against their own best interests.

So, Mr. Chairman, we should be careful not to be complacent about what is happening. We should also be careful not to let emotions created by immediate controversies or special incidents warp our judgment or distort our perspective. We should not assume that cracks mean the wall is falling. On the other hand, we will never restore strength merely by papering over the cracks as they occur. It is a time, Mr. Chairman, not for extremists and their passions but for a deep, responsible, and understanding examination of basic situations.

This means, I believe, that we have now reached a stage when we should seriously and collectively in this country review the bicultural and bilingual situation in our country; our experiences in the teaching of English and French, and in the relations existing generally between our two founding racial groups. In this review there should also be in my view, every opportunity and every encouragement for Canadians, individually or in their associations, and organizations, to express their ideas on this situation. If they find it unsatisfactory they should suggest concrete measures to meet it and to reach a better, more balanced participation of our two founding groups in our national affairs.

Are we ready, for instance, to give to all young Canadians a real opportunity to become truly bilingual? If the answer is yes, as I am sure it would be, what concrete steps should be taken at the different levels of our educational system to bring about this opportunity, having regard to the fact that constitutional responsibility for education is, and must remain, exclusively provincial? What further contribution to this end have we the right to expect from radio, from television and from films in both languages? How can we encourage more frequent contacts between young Canadians?

Then, there is the question which has already been mentioned in this debate, one of specific and inescapable federal responsibility. What are the reasons why there are

relatively so few French speaking Canadians in the professional and administrative jobs of the federal civil service, including crown corporations and federal agencies? How can that situation be improved as it must be improved? Would it be desirable, for instance, to have a bilingual school of public administration operated by the federal government in Ottawa?

There are a great many more questions that we might ask ourselves. These questions are now very much in the minds of Canadians, more so I believe than ever before in our history. They deserve concrete answers because they are vital to our future as a united country. They should be thoroughly examined and Canadians should be given an opportunity of expressing their views about them. There could not be any better preparation for the celebration of the centenary of confederation than to seek and find these answers. The federal government, as I have already stated and as is obvious to us all, has a special and exclusive responsibility to do something about the federal service and the crown companies. But an inquiry here, Mr. Chairman, and even necessary changes, will not in my view go far enough. Many of the most important problems to be solved fall within provincial jurisdiction, especially those arising out of the teaching of both languages. Therefore, if this wider inquiry into the means of developing the bicultural character of Canadian confederation is to be undertaken, the provincial governments would have to be associated with it.

I suggest that to this end the federal government should consult with the provincial governments without delay. If these consultations—I hope this would not happen and I cannot see any reason why it should—do not result in a positive response or if they are delayed, then of course any federal government would have an obligation to go ahead with the inquiry into matters which fall within its own jurisdiction. One additional advantage, Mr. Chairman, of the joint inquiry, that is with the provinces, is that it would show the importance of the contribution to our national development made by Canadians other than the founding races, which has been of special and indeed exciting value since world war II. This contribution of new Canadians from old races has added strength, colour and vitality to the pattern of our national life. It has enriched Canadianism by qualities inherited from old and noble traditions and cultures of other lands.

What better way could we prepare for our centenary than by taking effective steps