

The Address—Mr. Olson

quite understand the problem. I am also sorry to report that I think there is a reaction building up in western Canada against the opinions that have been expressed by extremists in French Canada. I hope this does not go further than it has, and in fact I think during the last few days this feeling has softened to some extent.

I want to commend the Leader of the Opposition for the position he took on February 4 last. There were expressions of opinion in the press and on the part of people to whom I talked that he was perhaps going to attempt to lead the reaction that has been building up in English speaking Canada, and use it for the purpose of some temporary or short range political expediency. I listened very carefully to the speech he made on the afternoon of February 4 and, as I said, I think he should be commended for the position he took at that time respecting the problem.

I should also like to commend the Prime Minister for the speech he made in the House of Commons last Thursday, and for some of the suggestions he made. Certainly I agree with him that we in the House of Commons have a responsibility to talk about understanding and appreciation of the other point of view whenever we have an opportunity to do so.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I think we should be doing much more. We should also face up to the problem now, because I think time is on our side at this moment. We could use this time between now and 1967 very profitably if we would undertake some practical measures that would cause a greater intermingling of people as between regions of this country. I should like to tell you in just a few moments what the city of Medicine Hat has planned as part of its centennial celebration. It has twinned itself—at least this is the term being used—with Moncton, New Brunswick. The reason for this is that these two cities are approximately the same size. One of the main reasons Medicine Hat chose Moncton, New Brunswick—of course Moncton, New Brunswick had to choose Medicine Hat, too—was the large French speaking population in the city of Moncton. We certainly want to do something to bring some of these people to Medicine Hat and send some people from Medicine Hat to Moncton. This will enable them to look directly at the problems and aspirations of the people in these cities.

We plan to exchange students. I believe there are plans under way now to exchange a whole classroom of students between these two cities some time during the centennial year 1967. The centennial committee also plans to exchange some municipal officers for a few days, including the mayors of these

two cities. I feel that this is an excellent program. I hope other regions in Canada will attempt to do the same thing.

I should like now, Mr. Speaker, to refer to the 10,000 scholarships mentioned in the Liberal platform. I am sorry to say that at this time we have no positive indication when that promise is going to be implemented. I suggest that these 10,000 scholarships and the legislation necessary to authorize the expenditures for them be brought forward very soon. I do not believe this program needs to be an intrusion into the rights of the provinces in the field of education. I feel we can justify this kind of program in the interests of national unity.

However, there should be some qualifications and some rules with regard to these scholarships. The students who accept them should be required to take advantage of them in a university in another part of Canada. I am not suggesting this plan should necessarily be a substitute for loans to university students or any of the many other things the provinces are doing to help university students. I feel this is something that could be done in addition to all the other help that is now being given. I believe the result would be a higher degree of understanding, if I may put it that way, if a number of students from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan went to Quebec or the maritimes and vice-versa. I believe there would be a tremendous increase in the understanding resulting from an exchange of students, as I said, between the maritimes and the prairies, between Ontario and the prairies or between Montreal and Vancouver.

There are some centennial plans that should be undertaken in co-operation with the provinces. However, I believe the scholarship scheme is a practical project which would result in creating more understanding. This is one thing that the federal government could do by itself. There are some other federal government plans that could be followed to celebrate Canada's one hundredth birthday without necessarily seeking the co-operation of the provinces. The provinces will be very busy doing a number of other things. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, I feel the scholarship program is one. It has been suggested that each one of these scholarships should be for \$1,000. This is a good figure to use; but if the requirement were attached to the scholarship that advantage of it be taken at a distant university, perhaps the amount should be increased so the student could make use of it.

There are a number of other matters, Mr. Speaker, that I should like to discuss this afternoon. One in particular which is of national importance is this matter of sugar.