

National Centennial Act

"Do you belong to this group, or do you belong to that group?" That was not why he gave his life. This very great comrade of mine, whose name was Emile LeBlanc, came from Prince Edward Island, and as I stand here I realize that I owe my existence to him, because he could have been out of that situation much sooner than I.

Then I think of the things that were said in this house yesterday and wonder where on earth we are heading when hon. members make statements about what they think are the right things and the wrong things. Surely as far as our friends are concerned—and I say "our friends" in all sincerity—from the province of Quebec, if they are being denied any rights, surely we have these rights set out boldly and clearly not only in the Quebec Act of 1774 but also in the British North America Act. I would be the first to stand up for these people if those rights were being denied. But we in this parliament of Canada cannot expect to have the advantages of an area of prosperity or the advantages of the contribution from one end of the country to the other if sections of our country are separate and apart.

Yesterday I heard the hon. member for Lapointe say, "We do not want anything in Quebec. We do not want anything else from Canada. We do not expect anything. But don't take anything away from us". I do not have his exact words in front of me at this moment, Mr. Chairman, but I think that is the gist of what he said. The hon. member went on to say, "We want our share". I agree with him. If through the legislation that exists in the Canadian statutes he is being denied his share, or his people, as I said before I would be the first to stand up in my place and demand that those rights be honoured. In the meantime, as we are considering the celebration of our confederation let us be together and let us be one. We must not be divided. We cannot be divided and be a nation. This is the fear that I have with regard to the terms of the resolution that is before us. This resolution is presented by the government and it is an odd thing that we hear these types of statements coming from some hon. members. I refer to the statement made recently by the hon. member for Lotbinière in regard to Canada's present status. These are not the type of statements that draw us together; they are not the kind of statements that will make us a great nation and give us, as representatives of the people, a better understanding of the situation. Then there are the statements of the hon. member for York East, whose letter to his constituents I hold in my hand. He says, "This is dead" and, "That is dead", and

[Mr. Winkler.]

he does not believe the government is accomplishing anything. If it is not accomplishing anything, it is as much his fault as anybody else's in this house.

I should like to point out, again, some of the things that keep us together and those which tear us apart. I think of the speech made by the hon. member for Three Rivers the other evening. This is the type of thinking that we want; it is the type of thinking that will carry us into 1967 and beyond as a nation, and with the possibility of being a great nation; not being divided by petty arguments among ourselves. I listened to the speeches made last evening. Some of the things said were devastating and only denigrate the picture of Canada and its possibilities as we draw toward the centennial of our confederation.

I hold in my hand a clipping from the *Toronto Star* which carries an article bearing the headline, "Legion 'Worse than reds'—Caouette". I have a further article here which deals with that hon. member's reason for not serving his country. This article goes on to say:

Caouette evaded military service simply by refusing draft calls. "They sent me white slips and blue ones and pink ones but I refused to go", he said recently. "I had gone through the depression and I didn't think Canada had given me anything worth fighting for".

An hon. Member: He should resign.

Mr. Winkler: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think, as we are considering the 100th birthday of confederation and its celebration, and our great historic past, and when I think of the days when the English minority in Canada depended on the French majority to bring us through to 1867 and on to where we are today, and the statements made yesterday by one of the hon. member's colleagues, an honourable course for the celebration of our centennial would be for this hon. member to resign his seat.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question? The hon. member for Lapointe spoke for this party in the house yesterday. The general theme of the hon. member's speech was that we wanted mutual respect as does anybody else. As we give respect to the English speaking citizens, we want it the same way. Does the hon. member go along with that principle?

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Grey-Bruce has the floor.

Mr. Winkler: There is no question about what the hon. member said, and if the colleague of the hon. member who has just