

Unemployment Measures Lacking

I think there they tried to shut their eyes. I could very easily tell you and we could very easily tell you that everything is getting along fine and that there is no problem, but I would be dishonest if I were to tell you that. I believe we should all work together, and that is important, because all members of this house are aware that there exists serious unrest in Quebec. There are in that province people who think it is possible to solve in some other way the problems now facing us.

Incidentally, let me tell you that people often confuse nationalism and separatism. There is certainly a nationalist crisis at the present time in the province of Quebec. We are probably all nationalists, that is we want the situation to improve in Quebec to a point where we shall really become equal partners with the rest of Canada.

We may be nationalists, but we are not separatists, and those who identify separatism with nationalism are doing a disservice to the cause of Canadian unity.

There are in the province of Quebec a small number of separatists. We know them and they have been identified. *Maclean's* magazine and the C.B.C. have made a survey, the results of which were published last week.

The problem has been set I think but it seems to me extremely important that we establish a distinction between nationalism and separatism.

When it is claimed, in this house or elsewhere, that all nationalists are separatists, direct offence is given to the people of Quebec.

I perfectly realize that most of my colleagues are beginning to understand the problem but I would not want us to put the matter off. On November 25, there will be here in Ottawa, an extremely important federal-provincial conference for the future of confederation. I believe that it is up to the federal government—I have said so outside this house—to take action in order to save confederation.

We want to become equal partners here in this country, but really equal. We have faith in Canada, we fought for Canada on several occasions and has a witness, General Foulkes, not said before the defence committee that the French Canadians, during the last war, had probably been the best soldiers?

We are in our own country, here; we want to be at home in the province of Quebec and in the other provinces of Canada but we want to feel at home everywhere.

We want to do our share, we realize now that in the province of Quebec we have to make exceptional efforts and that may be the reason why, at times, we are asking for a lot.

[Mr. Sauve.]

We shall get along, I think, if both sides have but one aim: keep Canada together, because Canada without the province of Quebec would not survive. And the province of Quebec, without Canada, would not survive either.

There is but one solution to our problems, that is to live together. We shall continue to have misunderstandings, to experience difficulties, that is normal; but I think that if we can overcome the present difficulties, we shall celebrate together confederation and we shall continue, French and English Canadians, to work for a better Canada. In my opinion, there is but one way to achieve this and that is to deal immediately with the fundamental problem, unemployment. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the government has already made an effort and that if, with the help of the hon. members, we can have that measure adopted, then we shall have done a great deal for Canadian unity.

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister from Iles-de-la-Madeleine.

Mr. Denis: Minister.

Mr. Pigeon: I am sorry. I would not want anything to offend the Postmaster General or any of his colleagues. Please accept my apologies.

Could the hon. member tell the house whether one of the possible means of solving the problem would be for instance, in the course of the federal-provincial conference, to grant to the provinces, and more particularly to Quebec, larger sources of income with which to build sewers, schools, roads, etc.? Could the hon. member tell us if such a method would not help solve the unemployment problems?

Mr. Sauve: It seems to me that I have insisted quite enough on the need for decentralization, and on the fact that provincial governments might solve certain local problems with greater ease than the federal government.

I feel sure that thanks to the spirit in which it is carrying on business at the present time, the federal government, together with the government of the province of Quebec and of other provinces, at the November 25 conference will come to an agreement of sorts, concerning the sharing of taxation revenues. If I were less sure of the fact, I would probably be rather unhappy in this house; every bit as unhappy for instance as my hon. colleague of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm might be, and as many other members besides.