

Biculturalism Commission Sees Local Views As Threat

TORONTO (CP)—Canada's biculturalism investigators are said to be warning a narrow regionalist attitude across the country poses as great a threat to Canada's future as the more overt separatism of some Quebecers.

Andre Laurendeau and David Dunton, co-chairmen of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, told a luncheon audience of more than 300 club members and women guests that if such provincialism prevails Canada could disintegrate.

The crisis that led to creation of the royal commission is focused in Quebec, said Mr. Laurendeau, but the commissioners found on an informal cross-Canada inquiry between January and March that the problem has numerous secondary centres among ethnic groups, French-Canadians outside Quebec and English Quebecers.

"The crisis has been emphasized all the more by the provincialism that is very strong in all parts of Canada," said Mr. Laurendeau, who explained that he was speaking also for Mr. Dunton.

There is a tendency to see the questions first from the provincial point of view, and to believe them solved when a certain equilibrium has been achieved within a province.

COULD FALL APART

If that attitude prevailed, Canada could fall apart without anyone feeling directly responsible.

Mr. Dunton, who explained the purpose and plans of the commission in a preliminary speech, said the investigators do not interpret equal partnership between French and English Canadians as meaning equality in magnitude of representation and participation in many spheres.

It does seem to us to raise the question of equality of opportunity for the individual to live his life and to develop as a member of one of these two principal cultural and linguistic groups," he said.

Canadians of other than French or English origins get special attention from the commission, both as members of one of the two main language and cultural groups and as people anxious to preserve their own cultural and linguistic heritages.

Both commissioners stressed the importance of communication in breaking down parochial and separatist tendencies—even in making the work of the commission itself understood.

MISTAKEN BELIEF

Travelling across the country, Mr. Dunton said, questions put to the co-chairmen showed some Canadians mistakenly believe that the commission's task is to encourage bilingualism when the purpose is simply to assemble facts and opinions on which to base recommendations.

Mr. Laurendeau cited the extreme difficulties of communication from one province to another and especially from one culture to another culture.

Noting that news tends to travel faster than other kinds, he added: "The result is that the information often tends to be superficial, tendentious and incomplete, in the majority of cases, though doubt is not cast on the reporter's good faith."

Dr. Harold Cranfield, a club director who thanked the commissioners in the one tongue at his command—English—expressed his faith that they would overcome such weaknesses in communication.

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Johnson Sees Khrushchev Seeking To Preserve Peace

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson said Saturday Soviet Premier Khrushchev is seeking to preserve peace in the world. Johnson said that as long as Khrushchev talks in peaceful terms, he will always have our ear.

This was Johnson's response, at another announced Saturday press conference, to a request for comment on Khrushchev's recent kind words about the American president and State Secretary Dean Rusk.

"I am glad to see," said Johnson, "that Mr. Khrushchev is playing the role of peace and seeking to preserve peace in the world. That certainly is the desire of this country. When he talks in peaceful terms, he will always have our ear."

At the same time, the president gave scant encouragement to any who would call for an early summit meeting.

Johnson said that because of the November U.S. presidential election, his newness in office, the absence of a vice-president, and a multitude of foreign policy problems, he does not plan to leave the continental United States this year.

The only things that could take him abroad, he said, would be an unforeseen emergency or "some feeling that great advances could be made."

Aides said that in his response about Khrushchev Johnson was not trying to get into the Sino-Soviet dispute on Moscow's side. The Kremlin accuses the Chinese of advocating nuclear war instead of Khrushchev's "peaceful co-existence."

Johnson was referring to "complimentary" remarks as the questioner put it—which Khrushchev made during his Hunan tour, the U.S. sources said.

Khrushchev said in an April 6 speech that "the United States is an imperialist country but its government judges the world situation soberly."

Johnson also made an announcement that touched upon the technological rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. He said: "The world record for aircraft speed, currently held by the Soviets, has been repeatedly broken in secrecy by the United States aircraft A-11."

METRO MEN AILING

TORONTO (CP)—William R. Allen and Frederick G. Gardner, the present and past chairmen of Metropolitan Toronto council, were in satisfactory condition in separate hospitals Thursday. Mr. Allen was admitted suffering from pleurisy, Mr. Gardner, 66, Mr. Allen's predecessor, is recovering from a minor abdominal infection.

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