

*Canadian Flag*

whether or not we would be better off to have a plebiscite. The press in my area publishes articles which it thinks are favourable to the Liberal party, but will not publish anything that is unfavourable.

Earlier this year we talked about a plebiscite on a different flag which had three maple leaves on it. I think the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis) will recall the three maple leaves. We hold a similar position in respect to this flag which has one maple leaf, but I do not know whether that minister has ordered a number of these new flags. Perhaps having been once burned he is going to wait and see. However, I am sure he will keep his eye on the business part of the transaction and see the flags are got when they are needed. The question is whether it should be up to him and his colleagues to decide the flag, rather than the people of Canada.

**Mr. Godin:** What about parliament?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I suggest this is an emotional issue which parliament should not be asked to solve. It is not a question that should come before parliament.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Are you afraid to take your responsibility?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** It is not a question that should come before parliament because it is one—

**Mr. Grégoire:** Are you afraid?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** —that crosses party lines. It is an emotional one.

**Mr. Dupuis:** May I ask a question?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** Surely.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Why is it that when your party was in power for six years it did not hold a referendum? Why did it not give the Conservative member from St. Boniface the chance to pass his resolution dealing with a plebiscite on the flag and the national anthem? Why didn't you support the bill I introduced in 1961 asking the Conservative Tory government to use the national census to ask the feelings of each Canadian on those national symbols? You could have asked a few questions from door to door and it would not have cost a cent. You were in power then and you had six years in which to do that. You didn't do anything when in power, and now in opposition, you want our Liberal government to do what your Conservative government refused to do.

[Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson).]

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I did not know whether the Minister without Portfolio was going to make a speech or not. There is a very simple answer—

**Mr. Dupuis:** Answer my question.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** If you will allow me. There is a very simple answer, that we had a flag passed by a Liberal government in 1945, under order in council, and about which we were quite happy. We had—

**Mr. Dupuis:** That is not the truth.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** —a national flag—

**Mr. Dupuis:** That is not the truth.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** —a flag which represented our history, a flag which did not allow various entrepreneurs to make a profit on it, a flag which suited Canada.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Answer my question.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I did.

**Mr. Godin:** The hon. member has just said the Conservative government was very willing to go along with the 1945 order in council. Why should he feel his party should choose the flag of this country?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I did not say our party was going to choose anything. I said we were quite happy with the flag we had and still have.

**Mr. Dupuis:** What about your Tory convention asking for a distinctive flag?

**An hon. Member:** Why don't you go back to Africa?

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Go to the jungle.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Answer that question.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** The minister, of course, is in the flag business and should know all about these things. I do not know whether he is in the furniture business or not. We have not heard that.

**Mr. Dupuis:** You were my best publicity agent.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** But I do know that I can fight under the red ensign, that this is a flag which I can live under.

**Mr. Grégoire:** That is a British flag. That is the British naval flag; it is not a distinctive flag.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** So far as I am concerned—