

first person to express what I know to be the feeling in Newfoundland, the deep love for and affiliation to the Union Jack, which has been confirmed today by the honourable senator from St. John's (Hon. Mr. Baird). I enjoyed hearing his sincere remarks. Senator Hollett mentioned the fact that the maple leaf is not distinctive, that it is foreign to Newfoundland. He mentioned that it is also used for wrapping meats of various kinds. This is a problem that disturbs me. On various inspection services, we use the maple leaf as a symbol that the meat or fish has been inspected. Should this design be adopted for the flag, I hope that some action will be taken to protect it.

When he was mentioning that the maple leaf was not limited and is not considered distinctive, I thought of a friend's home in Summerside. These people served for some time in Kashmir. They have very beautiful wood carvings and silverware. In fact, I have shown some samples to a number of senators. Until this new design came in I always assumed that these were maple leaves, and I was very surprised to find recently that they are not maple leaves but chinar leaves. These people asked me, what identification would this new flag have in this part of the world. This is an aspect which should receive some consideration.

Regardless of the objective of the flag resolution—and I do not intend to attribute any secondary motive to it—it has created disunity, it has created suspicion and bitterness in many minds. That cannot be ignored. I do not feel we can pass over this and say that time will heal those scars. Therefore, the suggestion in Senator O'Leary's amendment has much to merit our consideration. If the Government were to delay—not discard, merely delay—the resolution for a period of time, that would allow us to salvage a feeling of unity from the present feeling in Canada. It would allow us to develop a flag which would be acceptable to all people and be respected in our time. I feel very deeply that the flag should be respected in our time.

It is all very well to say that in 10 or 20 or 30 years' time, or perhaps even in 40, the flag will be accepted. However, within a very short time Canada will be celebrating its 100th anniversary, and I do not think we should have a flag that will not be respected by a great many people during those celebrations.

Honourable senators who quote figures of public opinion polls, stating that two out of three Canadians favour a new flag, are completely ignoring the fact that a large number of people do not accept or are not in favour of this design.

After all these words, I am sure honourable senators would expect me to give some idea of a flag design that would be acceptable; and naturally I am going to think of a flag that would be acceptable to the Atlantic provinces, for I know this area much better than I know the rest of Canada. I would also point out that while we deeply regret the change, I think many people in the Atlantic provinces would be ready and willing to co-operate with other areas in Canada in an attempt to arrive at a new design, if this is really the wish of a vast majority of Canadians.

The committee of the other house considered but did not accept a modified version of the Canadian ensign. Such a proposal, I think, would fit the terms of the amendment and be acceptable to a large number of people in Canada. The modified version, as all honourable senators know, contained a smaller Union Jack in the corner, three fleurs-de-lis of equal size to the Union Jack in the fly, and in the centre, a maple leaf. I feel that the maple leaf should be green, to signify that Canada is a young, vigorous and growing country. When a maple leaf becomes red, it is ready to fall and die. If honourable senators will look upward, they will note that the maple leaves on the beautiful ceiling in this chamber are green, not red. The Senate has sat in session for many years under the green maple leaf.

In conversations with many of my French Canadian friends, I have asked them concerning their objection to the inclusion of the fleur-de-lis in the flag. Some, but not all, said that it is a sign of colonialism, that it reminds them that their province was once a colony. I do not understand this viewpoint. Certainly Quebec was once a colony, so once were Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia. Indeed, all of North America and South America were once colonies. That was the only form of government at that time.

Honourable senators, I think we must recall that if the various parts which now make up Canada had not once been colonies, Senator Gladstone would be the only member of the Senate today.

As one of Anglo-Saxon descent, I am not going to attempt to suggest to the French-Canadian people what symbol they should put forward, what symbol would be best representative of their province. However, I would like to explain to them that we Anglo-Saxon people, probably wrongly, have come to associate the fleur-de-lis with the Province of Quebec. We see the fleur-de-lis on your provincial flags. It is on the licence plates of your automobiles, and it is a part