

victory only for common sense. There was victory for the good and wholesome Canadian spirit of compromise. But, honourable senators, that does not excuse the statement made by the Prime Minister the other night.

Walter Bagehot in *The English Constitution* said that the Prime Minister must be the one to set the tone of public life. I ask you, honourable senators, what sort of tone of public life was being set by the Prime Minister last Sunday night?

The Prime Minister this morning—and here, again, is where you come to the tone of our Canadian public life—is quoted as saying:

I felt it was desirable for me to express my own view that we should have such a flag.

Honourable senators, he was not expressing his own view on Sunday night.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Why not?

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): He was issuing an ultimatum to his own people on the parliamentary committee.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Surely the honourable senator does not mean that.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): What else can this mean? What was the controversy in the House of Commons about? It was about whether the flag should have on it the Union Jack or a maple leaf. So, finally and sensibly, after a lot of rancorous debate, the matter was referred to a parliamentary committee charged with the duty of seeking some fair compromise. Well, if that is so, how can the Prime Minister tell the nation on Sunday night that the flag that comes from the committee will be a flag "based on this historic and proud emblem of Canada, the maple leaf?"

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Does the honourable gentleman suggest that the Prime Minister by those words is saying to Parliament: you will act thus and so? Surely, he is making a prognostication—

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): He is putting his members on that committee into a ministerial straitjacket, and they will have to abide—

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I protest, Mr. Speaker. It is outrageous that there should be this kind of talk here.

The Hon. the Speaker: I think I have allowed the honourable senator enough time to make his point of privilege. There is nothing referring to the flag now before the house. In the near future—I do not know exactly when—we in the Senate will have an opportunity to discuss the flag question. Having regard to that fact I would ask the honourable senator not to continue his remarks in this vein.

As I have already said, his point of privilege has been made quite clear. Some honourable senators may not agree with him, but he has made his point and, having done so, I will ask him to refrain from further discussion of the question of the flag.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): Thank you, Your Honour. I am sure you wish to be fair. I am sorry that technically I am out of order, but I make my point, I think, when I say that in my opinion the Prime Minister's statement was reckless and irresponsible.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): It was no more reckless and irresponsible than the statements made by the honourable senator.

Hon. R. B. Horner: Honourable senators, I wish to protest to some extent. This is a body that should be interested in everything that Canadians are interested in.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Horner: The honourable Senator O'Leary was not debating the flag. He was bringing to the attention of this house the method by which this committee was appointed, and the statements made by the Prime Minister which the senator thought should not have been made.

I believe that Senator O'Leary had a perfect right to say what he has said. If we have not freedom of speech here, then what are we here for? I thought, after reading the statement of the Prime Minister, that he intended to abolish the Senate before Christmas, or that this was some special kind of measure that did not need to pass this chamber at all. I thought we were going to be set aside.

The remarks of the honourable senator were desperately needed today; it is high time we showed a little bit of gumption. If this resolution is going to be passed by Christmas, then are we going to be here at that time? It might not be passed for several Christmases.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators know that as Speaker of this honourable house, I have always tried to be fair and impartial. I believe that often I have been a little too lenient, but when no point of order is raised I assume that there is unanimous consent of the Senate for an honourable senator to extend his remarks.

I do not want to deprive any honourable member of the Senate of the opportunity of discussing the question of the flag but, as I have said and as everybody knows, the time will come when every honourable senator will have the opportunity to speak on this subject.

There is a motion to adjourn before the house, and having allowed the honourable