

*Canadian Flag*

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Leader of the Opposition states that our group is trying to divide the country; I will tell him, before all hon. members, that the speech he is now making will divide the country.

[Text]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The applause from the Liberal party after what has been said indicates their agreement with the hon. member. I wish to move—

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker.

**An hon. Member:** Will you shut up?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I move:

That all the words after "that" in line one be deleted and the following substituted:

"As the proposal to change Canada's national flag will affect the unity and destiny of Canada now and for years to come, the government be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to conduct a plebiscite prior to any further action being taken by the House of Commons, in order that all Canadians may be given their rightful opportunity to declare their choice concerning a national flag."

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Would it be possible to have that amendment in French?

**An hon. Member:** Two official languages.

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** In the short space of time that is left I should like to say that although the suggested amendment reads like a statement of principles it does, nevertheless, in my opinion, have to do with the method, which is one of the things we are considering. I propose, therefore, to accept the amendment.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** On a point of order, would Your Honour give an opportunity for hon. members who wish to do so to indicate why this amendment is not in order?

**Mr. Speaker:** I waited—a short time, I admit—but no one seemed to indicate any disapproval. And I may tell the house I am prepared to give reasons why in my humble opinion this motion is in order.

**Mr. Coates:** Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Coates) called it ten o'clock.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) should have the floor.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask what is the business for tomorrow?

**Mr. Favreau:** Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, the debate on the present resolution will continue.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

(Subject matter of questions debated under adjournment motion).

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved:

**CANADIAN FLAG—REPORTED THREATS TO SUPPORTERS OF RED ENSIGN**

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland):** Mr. Speaker, on June 4 I posed a question to the Prime Minister with regard to threats which were made on the lives of Canadians who were supporters of the red ensign and of its retention as Canada's national flag. At that time the Prime Minister replied to me in a manner which I considered unsuitable from many points of view. One of the points of view which caused me a great deal of irritation was the flippant manner in which he treated the threats which were made on Canadians because they supported the red ensign.

In this connection I should like to refer to an article which appeared in the *Toronto Daily Star*, which said, among other things, that Richard O'Hagan, spokesman for the Prime Minister, said that the Prime Minister was joking. Well, Mr. Speaker, when the point is arrived at in this country where the lives of Canadians are threatened, and not only their lives but the lives of their families are threatened, and the Prime Minister treats this as a joke, then in my opinion the whole matter relating to a national flag has reached that sense of proportion that it should be removed from the public until the point is reached where a sense of proportion can be given to the matter by the Prime Minister of this country.