

Canadian Flag

must be discovered, just as discoveries are made in the physical sciences.

Let us consider, for example, the discovery of Salk vaccine for the control of poliomyelitis, or the discovery and production of insulin by Banting and Best. Another example might be the discovery and development of the Bell telephone. Those were all discoveries.

Discoveries are also made in the social sciences. Consider for example the lady who sat in Boston with needle and thread and sewed together the flag of the United States. She carried out her work from the heart. She made a discovery with which everyone agreed, and it became the official flag of that great nation the United States of America.

I do not believe, by the very nature of the job they were assigned to do, a committee can go to work in camera, supposedly, and produce a flag satisfactory and suitable to this nation. That cannot be done. Instead of appointing a flag committee, as we did, it would have been much better to assign the task to the Canada council. I think we have a group of people there who could have taken much more time to consider this matter and given it much greater consideration. I am certain they could not have done a worse job than the committee did.

Mind you, it is not the fault of the members of the committee. They are all good men and I think they worked hard, but the task assigned to them was an impossible one. What we have got now was fully predicted by certain members of the press and by certain members of the house who said before the committee was appointed that it would not produce anything that would be acceptable to the people. Anyone who knows how matters of this kind are dealt with knows that the committee was charged with an impossible task.

I see the Minister of National Health and Welfare in her seat. Having charge of health matters, she would know that discoveries in the field of health must be worked on not just tomorrow or the next day but often for years before a remedy is ready to be made available to the public. When something is discovered it is often by accident. Someone imbued with the spirit of research goes ahead and works out the problem. The same thing has to be done in the field of social science with regard to the production of a flag. What I am trying to say is that the committee was placed in an impossible position.

One thing about which I am somewhat fearful in regard to a plebiscite is that we still have not a basic flag on which the people

could vote. One flag that was suggested was a modification of the red ensign. I am certain that no one on this side of the house has objected to a compromise. No one has said that the red ensign must be accepted lock, stock and barrel. In fact it has been said that the two founding races should be represented on the flag, and that there are many compromises and changes that should be made. But to deviate 100 per cent from the red ensign and throw it out completely will not satisfy the people of Canada. Now, Mr. Caouette—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows he has to refer to hon. members by the constituency they represent and not by name.

Mr. Kindt: Well, it was in the newspapers. I have reference to the front page of the *Toronto Daily Star* for December 3, 1964. In an address in Toronto the hon. member for Villeneuve made the following statement: "English Canadians" are not to blame. Reaching agreement in parliament on the choice of a flag will not achieve national unity.

In other words if the recommendation of the committee for a single maple leaf design is accepted this will not bring about national unity, according to the hon. member for Villeneuve who has spoken so vociferously in favour of blindly supporting this particular design as the national flag of Canada.

In reviewing the matter I sometimes think the Liberal party has chosen this time to bring forward a discussion on the flag in order to make it serve as a red herring and draw attention away from other problems facing the government. There is no doubt there are important matters that should be discussed, and it would be far better to get on with the discussion of them.

When the Liberal party brought forward their estimates, the house leaders got together and there was no trouble in getting the estimates through. When any other legislation has been brought forward which has been in the best interests of the people of Canada we on this side have always co-operated. But as the official opposition we have a right to point out those things that we feel are not in the best interests of Canada.

I say "in the best interests of Canada" because in my opinion the Liberal members are no more in favour of the recommendation of the flag committee than are the Conservative members of the house. But the fact is that we in the official opposition are being blamed throughout the country for talking on

[Mr. Kindt.]