

I have here the *Journals of the Senate* for that year, and I find on page 285 that the committee made its final report on December 5. It was reported that the committee held two meetings, in the course of which the question of a suitable design for a distinctive national flag, in accordance with the Order of Reference of the Senate of 21st November, 1945, and the Order of Reference of the House of Commons of 14th November, 1945, was carefully considered. Then the report states that certain witnesses were heard and addresses delivered on the technical-historical aspects of the question under study. However, the report goes on to say that the committee was not able to formulate a specific recommendation in the time at its disposal, and recommended that a similar joint committee be set up to continue the study of the question during the next session of Parliament. That is about all that took place in 1945.

In 1946 the matter was again brought up. I have in my hand the *Debates of the Senate* for that year. The House of Commons named its members to the joint committee of 1946, and the Senate, on the 27th day of March, named its members. They were: Senators David, Davies, Gershaw, Gouin, Howden, Johnston, Lambert, Léger, McRae, Quinn, Robinson and White. You will note I was not a member in 1946, Senator McRae having become a member of the new committee. However, because I was vitally interested in this flag question I attended almost every meeting the committee held in 1946. Those senators who were members of that committee and who are still alive and active members of the Senate today are: Senators Davies, Gershaw, Gouin and Lambert.

On the 11th day of July this committee came to a decision as to the kind of flag they were going to recommend to Parliament. I was able to find a copy of the *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence* of the committee, and I note that on July 11 a vote was taken in the committee and, as has been stated, they decided by a vote of 23 to 1 that a certain flag should be authorized. The only member who voted against the final report of the committee was a member of the House of Commons by the name of Mr. Lacroix.

I have here, honourable senators, the report which that committee submitted to Parliament. It is to be found in the *Journals* of the Senate of July 23, 1946, at page 362. Briefly, this is the decision of the committee:

Your Committee held fourteen public sessions.

The submission of designs to the Committee was publicly invited and up to and including this date, 2,695 designs

were received and considered. In addition, communications in the form of written letters, resolutions and printed form cards and printed form letters to the number of 42,168 were received and wherever the sender's name and address were given, receipt was acknowledged.

And then it goes on to say that certain distinguished historians and others gave evidence and assisted in the arrival at the decision that was finally reached by the committee.

By a process of elimination the members of the Committee finally reduced their selection to one design, which has been evolved in the course of the deliberations of the Committee. The Committee has not prescribed the exact details of the design but has agreed upon the following recommendation:...

And this is the important part:

Your Committee recommends that the National Flag of Canada should be the Canadian red ensign with a maple-leaf in autumn golden colours in a bordered background of white, replacing the coat-of-arms in the fly; the whole design to be so proportioned that the size and position of the maple-leaf in relation to the Union Jack in the Canton will identify it as a symbol distinctive of Canada as a nation.

That report was submitted to the Senate and was ordered to lie on the table; and that is all that was ever done with it. I understand the same happened in the House of Commons. All the Government of the day had to do at that time was to adopt this resolution which had been decided on by the committee with practically a unanimous vote, and all this trouble we are going through would never have arisen. I do not know why they did not do that. I have never been able to find out why it was not done.

Compare how this matter was handled then to what has taken place this year. The joint committees of 1945 and 1946 were set up by virtue of what was stated in the Speech from the Throne, as the honourable Leader of the Opposition has said. In this case there was nothing in the Speech from the Throne about this at all, but the Government took it upon itself to submit a flag already decided upon and made up, a *fait accompli*, and to say to Parliament, "This is the flag; we want you to adopt it." Then after a long, long debate it was decided to set up a committee to study the matter, but that committee was not a joint committee like those of 1945 and 1946; it was a committee of the House of Commons alone. Honourable senators, the Senate was completely ignored and overlooked. That is one reason why I will never