

Canadian Flag

emblems. This is no reason for including it in a Canadian flag. I like the maple leaf.

An hon. Member: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Leboe: Sit down; you will have all kinds of time to speak on this resolution. If we are going to have an emblem that has roots deep in the past, then certainly there is nothing more deeply rooted in Canada's past than the red ensign.

I should like to deal now with the statements of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian club. I should like to quote from page 4320 of *Hansard* where the Prime Minister quoted from the resolution of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

That the parliament of Canada formally adopt and authorize a distinctive national flag. A distinctive national flag would be a strong, unifying influence, consistent with the status of full nationhood.

I should like to refer to the other quotation which was from a resolution of the Association of Canadian Clubs:

Canadian clubs in biennial conference assembled support a Canadian flag that is simple, dignified and distinctive; and offer their services, if and when parliament has approved a Canadian flag, in promoting its acceptance throughout Canada.

In that connection, I should like to read from P.C. 5888 of 1945. I have a certified copy signed by R. B. Bryce, Clerk of the Privy Council. Before I read this, I should like to refer to a statement made by the Prime Minister in which he quoted a portion of this order in council to the effect that the red ensign may be flown from buildings owned or occupied by the federal government, within and without Canada. However, he failed to read the important part of the order in council which states:

His Excellency in council, on the same recommendation, is further pleased to declare and doth hereby declare that it shall be appropriate to fly—

Not may fly—

—it shall be appropriate to fly the Canadian red ensign within and without Canada wherever place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag.

If you compare the wording of this order in council P.C. 5888 and the resolution of the Canadian clubs and the chamber of commerce you will find this order in council complies with a request for a distinctive Canadian flag, which is here referred to as the red ensign.

I believe most members of the house, as a matter of fact I think all members of the house know exactly where I stand on the issue because I circulated a 20-point state-

ment outlining my personal views. In this statement I suggested several things, and I am going to review them at this moment. First of all, I said:

The people of Canada have never been asked nor have the people said they want a new flag other than the "red ensign".

I fail to find anyone who can prove to me that the people of Canada have said so. If the people of Canada have said so, I want somebody to stand up in their place and tell me when they said so.

Mr. Grégoire: My constituency did say so.

Mr. Leboe: Your constituency is a part of Canada, the same as mine. Let us have a vote on the matter and then we will know.

I continue to quote from the statement outlining my personal views:

The chief electoral officer should be notified that the opinion of the people is necessary to settle the matter and, therefore, should proceed to have a vote taken by way of a transferable ballot on which a number of choice designs, including the "red ensign", are manifest.

This is one point I should like to make in connection with the speech of the Prime Minister and also the reference by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam. I should like them to listen carefully to this proposal:

All votes should be sent to a central point for counting so that the place of origin of any vote cannot be determined.

There will be people who will say this cannot be done. This is what is wrong with many of our governments today; they say this or that cannot be done. I am telling you it can be done and it should be done. The number of votes in each poll would be recorded so we would know how many votes were cast, but we would never know who cast a vote for what. The chief electoral officer's report should be submitted to the permanent body of parliament, the Senate of Canada, for appropriate action.

I believe this is essential if we are going to have a permanent flag because surely, if the government of the day can bring in a flag by the method we are using today, then another government within two or three years can do exactly the same thing and we will have a flag for every political party that becomes the government of Canada. I believe this should be prevented at all costs, but the action we are taking and what we are proceeding to do will certainly bring about such a situation.

It is all right for hon. members to say, "Oh, they will never do it." This is the type of thing that traps old people at 45, because