

Canadian Flag

Is he going to follow his principles or follow his party?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman has addressed a direct question to me and I know, in the way he always does, that he will let me answer it equally directly. I said at that time that we would support a government which had an overwhelming majority in carrying out its mandate from the people. I did not say that we believed there should be no form of closure, but I said—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Winkler: Wiggle, wiggle.

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely, Mr. Speaker, I can be allowed to speak; I have listened to hon. gentlemen opposite. I said that we were not going to obstruct the government which had a clear mandate for which it had twice asked the people. I say to the right hon. gentleman that we twice asked the people of Canada to give us a mandate for a distinctive Canadian flag, and I suggest that that mandate should also be respected.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that question turned out to be the usual unobjective ejaculation without sense or reason or fact to support it. As a matter of fact, I quoted from the hon. member's statement yesterday and he ran for cover. I pointed out what he said, that without the union jack there would be division in Canada.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I denied that statement yesterday, and there is a rule of this house which states that when an hon. member quotes from a press report which is not in quotation marks, and an hon. member says that it is not an accurate account of what he said, the member's word must be accepted. I made whatever statements were made in Quebec, and those statements were not correctly reported in the press. I indicated that fact the following day, and the right hon. gentleman has no right to take the original report and quote from it. This same thing has happened on many occasions, and I suggest that the right hon. gentleman should stop questioning the words of other hon. members.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have had a search made to obtain the denial that the hon. member mentions, but there has been no record of it which anyone has been able to discover. However, the hon. gentleman was in a difficult position in this regard. After all, in the shadows standeth Joey. If

there is any misunderstanding about who "Joey" is, let me state that the premier of Newfoundland has said that there will be a union jack and, as far as he is concerned, nothing else. Mr. Speaker, how uncertain is the course of the government in this connection; because having wiped the union jack aside, and having said it should not be part of Canada's flag, they are now going to have a second one. But we say, put them together.

I suggest to the Prime Minister that he stop making fatuous and nebulous threats, because we have received too many of them. Do not have your allies make your motions, or allow them to make threats because we are not in any way—

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman has invited this, so I must give him some assistance. Do not make threats and expect those in the Creditiste party who support you on every occasion to pull you out.

Mr. Grégoire: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I say to the leader of the Creditistes, what did those friends of his say about him only a few years ago? The minister of health, speaking in Calgary said Réal Caouette should not sit in the House of Commons. That is what they thought of him then. Today there is a wonderful feeling of co-operation between—

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Today there is a wonderful feeling of co-operation between the members of the—

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Two wrongs do not necessarily make a right. Do you have a question of privilege?

Mr. Grégoire: I have a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition said exactly the same thing in my constituency, and his candidate lost his deposit in that election.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I never directly or indirectly made any such statement, and the hon. gentleman knows that what he has said has no basis in fact.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.