

Canadian Flag

the fact that somehow we who favour the retention of our century old banner are now being singled out as the villains in the piece. We are accused of helping to sow disunity in this country by refusing to go along with the proposal for a new Canadian flag.

This is true. This is part of the trick to which I referred earlier, and one of the reasons I would be prepared to put the question to a plebiscite and stand on what the people had to say. Mr. West goes on to reconcile the whole matter. I have before me a speech that was delivered in Toronto in regard to the problem as some people try to portray it; but Mr. Robarts, the premier of Ontario, has approached it from the point of view of trying to unite the country. I am afraid those on the other side of the house do not have as full an appreciation of what they are doing to Canada. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and all members of the house, was there a problem before the Liberal party came into power in this country? Was there a problem between Quebec and the rest of Canada? No, there was no problem. Why should there be a problem now, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Hales: Divide and rule.

Mr. Winkler: It is a very sad and sorry thing that this sort of thing takes place for political purposes, and I am afraid that is the case. That is all the more reason why a plebiscite should be held. As I said earlier, I am not too much imbued with the idea, but when the government comes along in this way and uses these tactics I can only say that this must be their motive.

I also have here the text of a speech delivered in Toronto at a similar sort of meeting by one Mr. Fernand Guindon, a French Canadian from eastern Ontario. He expresses his thoughts on the question very well. I believe more attention should be paid to the sensible attitudes that people put forward rather than trying to pick on the small things which cause trouble. I should like to read an excerpt from this speech. As I say, it was made by a French Canadian who lives in eastern Ontario. He said in part:

We French Canadians in Ontario have not only received fair treatment for our own particular problems. We have also shared with all Ontario citizens the benefits of progressive policies which have developed this province and made it prosperous.

The same doors are open to every citizen of Canada. Do you hear the province of Ontario squealing because of a recent announcement that it pays more taxes than any other part of this country? I think not. Should they

[Mr. Winkler.]

not, then, have the opportunity of saying what kind of flag they want? Would a plebiscite not achieve this purpose? Then let all the people across the country accept the result.

Mr. Moreau: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Winkler: Yes.

Mr. Moreau: Is he suggesting now that we should have a weighted vote, depending on the amount of taxes we pay?

Mr. Winkler: No, I did not say that. This is another typical Liberal trick that the hon. member is using. I will admit that the hon. member is in attendance quite often, but he has not said much lately. I believe the people of Scarborough would like to hear his views on this issue.

Mr. Moreau: I should like to express my views by a vote.

Mr. Winkler: We know how they will be expressed.

Miss LaMarsh: You have not told us which apple you like.

Mr. Winkler: If the minister would mind her own apples she would get along better around here.

Mr. Regan: I was attempting to follow the hon. member closely, and with interest. I understand he made a complaint that the people of Ontario pay more taxes than any other area. I ask the hon. member if he would not agree that this is because of the fact that the rest of Canada has to bear the tariffs to protect Ontario's industries and provide a captive market for the products of Ontario?

Mr. Winkler: The other night, Mr. Speaker, I believe I referred to the hon. member but one word was missed in *Hansard*, so I will repeat the reference today. I referred to him as the brash and junior member for Halifax. If he looked after the problems of his own constituency and voted properly on this question, he might have a chance of coming back. In addition, I do not like the way he takes my words out of context.

I meant to ask, do you find any of the arguments that arise in Canada today coming from the province of Ontario? You do not. No one hears that voice. I make this statement precisely for the benefit of the hon. member for York-Scarborough. You do not hear any of these arguments coming from