

But what about the new flag? What do you think of it? Personally speaking, I cannot say too much for it right now. Being a man of many flags, a railroader, as you all know, I have great respect for flags. The colours are many. We have a white flag, a yellow flag, a green flag, a green and white flag, a blue flag, and a purple flag. All these flags mean something. I could go on and explain to you what they mean. I have only worked with them for the past 25 years, but those who went before me used them too. And what do they mean? Green: "Go!" Red: "Stop!" Yellow: "Proceed with caution!" I could go on and elaborate, but I am sure honourable senators who have served on the transport committee know the answers.

In reference to polls, when I heard of the "Croll Poll" I searched through my pocket and plucked out this article which appeared in the Toronto *Daily Star* of December 12, 1964. It is headed:

Opinion poll favours maple leaf flag

I did not stop there, but kept on reading.

A privately-organized opinion poll taken in Toronto, Montreal and rural Quebec shows 81 per cent of those polled want a red, white and blue maple leaf flag.

We are away off base. If 81 per cent want this type of flag, then the one that is being suggested today is not the right one. However, I would not want to think that polls are wrong. It says 81 per cent. It mentioned 16 per cent here too:

Of the total sample of 411 persons, 81 per cent liked the blue version, and 16 per cent liked the red version. Three per cent refused to make a choice.

The red version is the choice of a parliamentary committee which has completed a study of the flag question. The red flag is now before the House of Commons.

—in more ways than one. I thought that was a terrific figure, 81 per cent—better than the "Croll Poll," as Senator Croll called it.

If I may, I would like to read into the record a letter I received a day or two ago: It is addressed:

8559 89 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
December 13, 1964

Senator Pete Robertson  
Kenora, Ontario  
Ottawa, Canada

So he is going to make sure the letter gets to me!

Dear Sir:

Two of the most beautiful flag designs in the world are undoubtedly the Star Spangled Banner and the Union Jack.

This has been said in this chamber this evening, and was mentioned by Senator Poulit yesterday. I agree. Then he refers to the Pearson red maple leaf flag:

The Pearson red maple leaf flag is too plain in appearance to look good flying beside either of these two, and the enclosed flag designs that I have submitted are much more complimentary—all three being stripe designs.

—though there were only two in the package when it arrived, so one must have dropped out. Nevertheless, he said there were three.

It is my opinion that if the Pearson maple leaf design is adopted it will split the country more than ever. As while the Red Ensign is too British, the maple leaf flag is too extreme the other way. I feel the Pearson design is too plain and meaningless. While on the enclosed designs each blue stripe or pillar, as I choose to call them, is representative of the ten provinces, while the gold band ties in all the provinces to the maple leaf as a wedding ring. The fleur-de-lis occupies one-third of the shield but having top position gives both the French and British equal representation and also shows that the French were here first.

That is something to be considered too.

I believe that unity can be helped if both the British and French are equally represented on the flag which is a good compromise between the Red Ensign and plain maple leaf design. I hope you will favour bringing these designs to the attention of the Senate.

I knew you in the army in Winnipeg.

Yours respectfully  
(Signed) William McCulloch.

These flag designs were submitted to the chairman of the flag committee at a late date but before their design was chosen. I received no acknowledgement from them which would make me feel that their design was pretty well cut and dried.

I have another letter here, but I do not think I will bother reading it.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Antigonish-Guysborough):** Is the last part a P.S. or did you write that in yourself?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson (Kenora-Rainy River):** It is in the same handwriting as the signature.