

financing of the Calgary Olympics, was also a proposal and a decision of the Government which pleases me personally and pleases this party. It will go towards offsetting the costs of the Calgary Olympics. We think that that is an excellent suggestion. We also recognize that the Government stands to make a lot of money on the dollar coin down the road, because coins only go one way—they go out. Coins do not come back and get destroyed and new ones produced. Coins keep getting produced and they go one way. It is a constant revenue for the Government. We recognize that and, goodness knows, they need every penny they can make these days.

We are pleased in this party to support Bill C-118, and trust that it will get speedy passage through this House this morning.

**Mr. Bradley:** A question was raised by my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, and I think I should take just a second, if I may, to clarify it. He asked about the replacement of the existing dollar coin. There are two coins at the present time, the circulating version, which is struck in pure nickel with the Voyageur design. This coin will be replaced by the new dollar coin. There is also a numismatic version for collectors that is struck in pure silver having a new design and theme each year. This coin will continue, and this year's theme is the hundredth anniversary of the transcontinental passenger train service.

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak to Bill C-118. I do not intend to make lengthy submissions with respect to the legislation. My hon. friend and colleague for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell has already spoken on behalf of the Liberal Party, and I concur fully in his submissions.

We believe the time has come to introduce a dollar coin for a number of reasons. I suppose there would be those who would be somewhat reluctant to do away with the present dollar bill. We all grew up with the dollar bill but, for the reasons indicated by speakers for all three political parties, it is our view that the time has come to introduce the dollar coin.

I thought I would take this opportunity while we were talking about money to talk about the new \$5 bill. I received a call in my office a number of weeks ago from a very concerned citizen here in Ottawa who indicated that he was looking at the new \$5 bill that was introduced a number of weeks back to the market-place. He noted that the flag flying over the Parliament Buildings was not the Canadian flag as we know it. There was a concern that it might in fact have been the American flag flying over the Parliament Buildings. We considered this to be an item of national concern so we pulled out the magnifying glass and took a very close look at the flag flying over the old Parliament Buildings. We found that indeed it was not the official Canadian flag as we know it today flying over the old Parliament Buildings, nor was it the American flag. There were those who thought, given the cozy relationship between the Government of Canada today and the present administration in Washington, that there was some agreement

to fly the American flag over the Parliament Buildings. We took a close look at what was flying—

• (1150)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order. I just want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) that the Chair does have some difficulty with the pertinence of the Hon. Member's remarks to the legislation we are dealing with today. Perhaps the Hon. Member could tie it in with the legislation that the House is dealing with now?

**Mr. Nunziata:** I would be very pleased to do so, Mr. Speaker. Bill C-118 is an Act to amend the Currency Act, which I understand deals with all currency. It is my submission that it is incumbent upon the Bank of Canada and all the institutions of Government that deal with Canadian currency to ensure historical accuracy with respect to currency that is introduced or reintroduced into the Canadian market-place.

I am commenting in regard to the historical inaccuracy of the \$5 bill. I hope that the Government and those involved will ensure that the \$1 coin that is about to be introduced is historically accurate.

If I may carry on with respect to the \$5 bill, we found that what was flying—

**Mr. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I find the Hon. Member's remarks in the debate very interesting, but I think the House would agree that the debate is not necessarily about the Currency Act, but an amendment to that Act. I might point out that the amendment relates to the coinage, particularly the \$1 coin—not the \$5 bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata).

**Mr. Nunziata:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We found that what was flying over the Parliament Buildings, above the centre block, was the Red Ensign. As we know, the centre block of the Parliament Buildings burnt down on February 3, 1916. The official flag of Canada at the time was not the Red Ensign. The official flag of Canada from 1867 to 1945 was indeed the Union Jack, according to G.F.G. Stanley, who is a noted historian and world-wide expert with regard to flags. We referred to his publication, *The Story of Canada's Flag*, which pointed out quite clearly that the official flag was indeed the Union Jack. It was obvious that the flying of the Red Ensign over the old Parliament Buildings was an historical inaccuracy. I suggest that when dealing with any form of currency, whether it is a \$1 coin or any bill, one should ensure that there is historical accuracy to the various designs that appear on the coinage or bills.

The House will note that with regard to the \$5 bill there was a Canadian version of the Red Ensign which incorporated the arms of the four original partners of Confederation. That early version of the Red Ensign appeared as early as 1874, but it