

## Flags of Canada

(Text):

This is from "Backstage with Youth" in *Maclean's* magazine:

Has it rejected old ties for Canada-first? Young Canadians have tended to rebel against historic ties with Britain and France in favour of greater nationalism throughout this century. The current generation is heading more swiftly than any other down the path of Canada-first, it is suggested by a recent opinion survey among 1,200 high school students.

(Translation):

I will omit the part that deals with the national anthem since it has nothing to do with this debate. I come directly to the conclusion about a distinctive flag.

(Text):

On the flag question the sexes were split more widely.

(Translation):

The question had been put to the boys and the girls in this way:

(Text):

That is between boys and girls: Here's where the 83.7 per cent who favoured a distinct Canadian flag stand on the question—

(Translation):

Please note, Mr. Speaker that 83.7 per cent are in favour of a distinctive national flag.

(Text):

"Should it include the fleur-de-lis or the union jack, or parts of both, or be completely different?"

(Translation):

So, to that question, an average of 35.7 per cent of the boys and girls answered that the flag should be different, namely 40.7 per cent of the boys and 30.7 per cent of the girls. It should be noted that a great number did not give any answer. However, the majority declared themselves in favour of a distinctive national flag.

In addition, the table shows that 2.4 per cent of the boys, as well as 1.4 per cent of the girls, or an average of 1.9 per cent, were in favour of the fleur-de-lis. In favour of the union jack, were 11.7 per cent of the boys, against 13.9 per cent of the girls, or an average of 12.8 per cent. Also, 26.4 per cent of the boys and 29.9 of the girls, or an average of 28.2 per cent, would prefer to have both in part. But the general average, that is the majority, is in favour of a distinctive flag and do not want to see any sign of allegiance on the flag.

The article goes on:

(Text):

The kid's apparent lack of interest in the fleur-de-lis is probably explained by under-representation of French Canada in the sample. But the survey is well balanced otherwise. The 1,200 youngsters whose opinions make up the percentages were chosen at random from a list of 200,000 of

the country's 380,000 high school students. Their answers are weighted according to the populations of the cities they live in.

(Translation):

I would like to correct an opinion which may still exist among Canadians of other provinces, because it was mentioned in the house by the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher) when he said that the French Canadians or the Canadians from the province of Quebec were in favour of a flag including the fleur-de-lis. I, for one, have never suggested including the fleur-de-lis. We want a flag without any symbol of an outside allegiance, and it is on that note that I wish to conclude my remarks.

I want to underline here something said by the member for Kootenay-West (Mr. Herridge):

(Text):

When the time is crystallized, we can have a distinctive national flag.

(Translation):

Well, I hope the time will soon come when we will have a distinctive national flag. I also hope we will be able to submit this question to the Canadian people for a final decision on the matter.

With regard to the fleur-de-lis, we in the province of Quebec have a provincial flag of which we are proud.

Last year, the province of Ontario decided to fly on its parliament buildings in Toronto the red ensign with the maple leaf. Here perhaps, is a means of implementing the suggestion that each of the ten provinces should have as an emblem a flag of its own, which need not be the national flag but one in keeping with the group of Canadians represented and recalling the particular history of such groups. Then we could hope to have a really distinctive national flag, and we would have unity in diversity.

But, I repeat, Canada as a whole must have a distinctive national flag. Let us enable Canadians from coast to coast to decide once and for all on a truly distinctive flag which would give added strength to its motto "A mari usque ad mare" and strengthen national unity at all times and especially in trying periods.

(Text):

Mr. O. W. Weichel (Waterloo North): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the different members expressing their views concerning the resolution proposed by the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Regnier). I heartily agree that we should have a distinctive flag. Visitors coming to our country are puzzled as they see the union jack and the red ensign flying in the different cities, towns and hamlets of our country.