

and cons of what they do in that house. I consider that to be their business just as I consider the conduct of our affairs here to be our business.

I am not criticizing the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) when I say this, but I think I owe it to the house to make known to honourable senators the considerations that entered into my thinking.

There is another point to be considered. I understand the decision to set up a committee was one that was reached after agreement by consultation with the leaders of all parties, and we were not part of that issue at that time. We do not know whether or not they would have wanted to enlarge the committee to include members of the Senate. We do not even know if they considered it.

I have discussed this matter on a number of occasions with many senators, and this seemed to be the wise course to take.

**Hon. Mr. Brooks:** I take it then there was no representation to the Government to have members of the Senate included in the committee?

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** I did not make any.

**Hon. M. Grattan O'Leary:** Honourable senators, I rise to support what has been said by the Leader on this side of the house with respect to the desirability of Senate representation on the flag committee. At the outset, honourable senators, I must confess that following a statement made to the nation by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening during a national television broadcast—

**Some Hon. Senators:** Order, order.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** Am I not permitted to speak, sir?

**The Hon. the Speaker:** The motion before the Senate is for adjournment.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** I am speaking in connection with a matter that is of interest to all honourable senators.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** May I say that I do not think this is the time to discuss this matter. I allowed the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) to make his point, but if the matter were thrown open for debate one could not tell where it would end. I do not feel that according to the rules such a debate should take place at this time. Therefore, I would suggest that the honourable senator may ask questions or discuss the motion to adjourn, but he may not discuss the question of a new flag, since that question is not now before the Senate.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** I did not intend to discuss the question of a flag.

With great respect for your ruling, sir, may I now speak on a question of privilege because this is a matter, I think, which affects the privileges of this house?

In his statement on Sunday night the Prime Minister seemed to have assumed that the house would have to accept a certain type of flag for Canada.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Order, order.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** Let me read what he said—

We are going to have a new flag by Christmas. It is going to be a distinctive national flag and it will be based on this historic and proud emblem of Canada, the maple leaf.

My point, honourable senators, if I may make it, is this. As to the usefulness of this parliamentary committee—and we are a branch of Parliament, we are interested in the parliamentary committee, and this is a resolution before Parliament—in view of that statement, which I consider to be shocking and irresponsible, the committee has been torpedoed before it has been launched. An act of sabotage has been committed against it.

May I say, to be honest with myself, that I regret as much as any person in Canada the fact that after an agreement had been reached among the parties in the other house—

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** What is the honourable gentleman talking about? Is he talking about an agreement in the House of Commons?

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** I am leading up to my point.

I think the Prime Minister was in contempt of Parliament when he gave a pledge to the nation that he would bring in a certain type of flag. What right had he to assume that this branch of Parliament would accept any particular flag which comes to it from the other place? Surely, this is a proper question of privilege!

I have raised my voice in this house very humbly before about the contempt and the disdain for this house shown by people in power in the other place. I submit, honourable senators, that that statement—the statement that a flag would be provided for the Canadian nation by Christmas, and that it would be a special type of flag—was in contempt of this branch of Parliament.

I said before that I regret—and I cannot see how on earth this is out of order—that certain people rushed into print last week to say that certain parties in the House of Commons had won a victory or suffered a defeat. There was no defeat and no victory in the House of Commons last week. There was