Canadian Commonwealth Flag

Olson
Ormiston
Otto
Pascoe
Patterson
Paul
Pearson
Pennell
Pepin
Pickersgill
Pilon
Prittie
Prud'homme
Pugh
Rapp
Regan
Ricard
Richard
Rideout, Mrs.
Rinfret
Robichaud
Rochon
Rock
Rouleau
Roxburgh
Ryan
Saltsman
Sauvé

Scott
Simpson
Southam
Starr
Stefanson
Stewart
Tardif
Teillet
Temple
Thomas
Thompson
Tremblay
Tucker
Turner
Wadds, Mrs.
Walker
Watson (Assiniboia)
Watson (Châteauguay-
  Huntingdon-Laprairie)
Webb
Webster
Weichel
Whelan
Willoughby
Winch
Winkler
Woolliams—194.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I declare the amendment lost.

Mr. Beer: I was paired; had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, I abstained from voting, and I cannot see why anybody—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Clancy:—in this house has to support something that they voted against nine times.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, other than for the few remarks I made this afternoon on the amendment which has just been voted upon, I have not spoken in the debate on this motion for concurrence in the committee's report. I have just a few remarks I should like to make in this debate.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lambert: I wish hon. members opposite had the courtesy to listen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. In fairness to the hon. member who has the floor may we have a little quiet in the chamber.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, I must comment on the noise that comes across from some members sitting on the opposite side as though they had gas on the stomach and were relieving themselves. I feel that this house is entitled to hear the opinions of all members. We are quite prepared to listen to hon. members, even hon. members opposite when the occasion arises and they do not behave like trained seals. In particular we would

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

like to hear from some of the members from the province of Quebec.

[*Translation*]

And I should like to know what will be the attitude of the members of the province of Quebec who voted against the red ensign, because it was a foreign symbol and who now intend to support the government's proposal so that Canada may be given a second flag that is even more foreign than the first, if it was. Then, we should like to know which arguments they will use to adopt the union jack as a second flag for Canada, and it is indeed a second flag.

Mr. Caouette: That is correct.

Mr. Lambert: Of course, the union jack is a nice flag, but it is the flag of Great Britain. It is not the Canadian flag. I am proud of my affection for Great Britain, because after all I married a girl from over there and I studied in England, but I can tell you that, in my view, the union jack is not a flag for Canada.

[*Text*]

Any way you want to cut it, Mr. Speaker, this is the same loaf of bread we had last June when the government introduced its resolution which the Chair divided into two parts, one dealing with the national flag and the other with the second flag. Shortly after that resolution was introduced I was in Europe and may I say that Canadians abroad, and our friends abroad were absolutely astounded at what they considered was the completely illogical position taken by the government.

We can, of course, advance all sorts of reasons why this was done. A charge has been made in the press and elsewhere that this was a sop or pacifier to certain sectors of the country.

An hon. Member: Where?

Mr. Lambert: Well, first of all, I know one provincial premier at the eastern extremity of the country who said, "I don't care what flag they adopt in Ottawa so long as it is the union jack or the red ensign, because the union jack is what is going to fly in this province." I am sure there were many government backbenchers who were also astounded when they saw the form of the resolutions calling for two flags. Everybody had talked about a distinctive national flag, not two flags; yet this is what was produced.

In view of the appeal the red ensign had throughout the country, and in view of its general popular support, if we were to have