

Canadian Flag

some of us have a French background dictates a manner of thinking and voting. Those who like myself have an Anglo-Saxon background have a different approach to the questions of the day.

A study of history is of great value to us. I cannot help but repeat my request that this committee report be allowed to drop. We have all heard of the great victory of the king of Epirus over the Romans in Italy. King Pyrrhus then said, "One more victory such as this and the war is lost." When thinking of that great victory of the Greeks over the Romans do not forget that he is the one man in history regarded as having been able to prevent the growth of the Roman empire, had he wished to do so. For some reason, probably because Greek cities did not give him the military support necessary, he turned back from his approach to Rome and ravaged southern Italy and Sicily. He is known particularly for his epigram, "One more victory such as this and the war is lost".

King Pyrrhus had a greater claim to fame than his military victories in southern Italy and Sicily, which were indeed tremendous. Another epigram has been and will be associated throughout history with King Pyrrhus. After ravaging Sicily for three years, he is the man who has been described as introducing the phalanx to Italy. His outriders were mounted on elephants brought in from Egypt. After leaving Sicily he decided to go back to Greece and—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Cowan: Those voices come from the serious, honest and high minded members who have handled this whole question in the way it has been handled. That is the group that continually shouts "Shut up and sit down".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cowan: I was pointing out that as King Pyrrhus left Italy for Greece he said to the hosts assembled around him, "What a battlefield I leave here for Carthage and Rome".

I suggest that the flag issue should be dropped. Our hopes will govern the votes of many of us, and at \$18,000 per year or \$1,500 per month, with 40 months from now until the end of the life of this parliament, this is a \$60,000 question. I ask you to vote in favour of the plebiscite, and vote for it wholeheartedly, so as to let the country decide this question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I should like to know whether an hon. member has the right to impute motives to others for the way they vote?

[Text]

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, before I commence my speech on the flag question I should like to compliment the hon. member for York-Humber for his splendid address.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Kindt: May I also suggest that if every member of the Liberal party was honest and studied that speech I am convinced they could not find anything wrong with it, and I challenge all those Liberal members to stand in their places and voice their opinions on this subject. There is not one among you who has made a speech, so we can rightfully accept the attitude expressed by the member for York-Humber as the official attitude of the Liberal party, and it should be presented as such. We all know that as trained seals you have not the fortitude to depart from the position which has been taught you and speak your minds with intellectual honesty, as has been done by the hon. member for York-Humber.

The hon. member for York-Humber has stated categorically that the committee report should be dropped and that we should go ahead with the other important business of the house. How many times has that suggestion been made in this chamber during the past several days? Almost every member who has spoken during this debate has made that suggestion, but it has fallen on the deaf ears of the members on the Liberal benches.

As that hon. member suggested, there is no clear mandate for adopting the flag which has been recommended by the committee as the national flag. Let us consider the red flag which has been recommended by the committee. It represents a complete change from the three maple leaf design originally presented to the house.

The right flag for this nation, if a change is to be made from the red ensign, has not yet been discovered or presented to the Canadian people. One cannot discover the right flag by appointing a committee, setting time limits and holding guns to their heads. That cannot be done. If the Liberal members would just stop and think about what they are doing they would realize that in order to produce the kind of flag of which we can all be proud it