

Canadian Flag

Mr. Caouette: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that, with his knowledge, the hon. member for Lapointe could translate without too much trouble from French to Greek, so that Conservative members would understand precisely what he is doing at present.

[Text]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Middlesex East.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to give a ruling on this matter.

Do you not feel that what the hon. member is repeating has already been said?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has listened to the point of order of the hon. member for Lapointe.

The remarks that the hon. member for Middlesex East (Mr. Millar) is making now seem pertinent to me. Besides, I have noted that his speech, up to this stage, had the character of an introduction, and I presume that in due time he will come to the amendment now before us.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order and your ruling—

Mr. Lambert: There is no appeal from the ruling, no comments to be made.

Mr. Caouette: No, Mr. Speaker, I feel that I can make comments, to say that there is no need to make repetitions at this stage.

When the hon. member for Winnipeg North South—

An hon. Member: Winnipeg South Centre.

Mr. Caouette:—or South Centre rises over and over again to ask you to call to order hon. members who repeat what other members have said, I think that it is time now for you to decide whether the hon. member who has the floor is in order or not. Personally, I feel that he is not, because he repeats what others have already said.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has already made its decision to the effect that it is satisfied, for the time being at least, that the hon. member who has the floor is in order.

[Text]

Mr. Millar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is any member in this house who, to the disgust of us all, repeats himself more than anyone it is the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire).

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Perhaps the hon. member who has the floor will want to co-operate with the Chair and try to limit his remarks to the subject matter of the debate.

Mr. Millar: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, I think I had just stated—and I will repeat it for the benefit of the hon. member for Lapointe—that the present Conservative amendment proposes that the people of Canada shall have the opportunity of indicating in a democratic way whether or not they want a new flag for Canada. If that is not pertinent to the present amendment then I am prepared to apologize to the house.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, in paragraph 2 of standing order 34 it is also indicated that a member may not repeat things already said. That was the basis for my point of order and what the hon. member just said has been repeated at least 200 times in this house.

Indeed, you are aware of it yourself because listening to it seems to be boring you.

Therefore, you should endeavour to see to it that the same thing is not repeated too often. Indeed, those things were not repeated two, three, five or six times, but at least 200 times to date, and it is on that point that I am asking you to call the hon. member to order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has made a ruling on that.

I think that the hon. member for Lapointe is giving a somewhat too strict interpretation of the standing order he is referring to. In fact, during a debate I think it is obvious that hon. members making contributions must necessarily repeat to a certain extent arguments put forward by other hon. members taking part in the same debate.

The hon. member who has the floor now is referring to the motion itself and it seems to me that he cannot be accused of repetition, and it is on that point that the hon. member for Lapointe based his point of order.

The Chair's ruling is that the hon. member for Middlesex East is entitled to repetition and that he should be allowed to proceed with his remarks.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I rise once again on a point of order.

Even though, according to your ruling, the hon. member has the right to repeat himself, I must point out that we are considering an amendment concerning the flag issue, namely whether a plebiscite should or should not be held.