

*Canadian Flag*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am afraid the learned author Beuchesne in his fourth edition does not make that distinction.

**Mr. Pugh:** Before you give a final ruling on that point, may I point out that there has been editorial comment here and there throughout Canada on this subject, and many speakers have read editorial comment into the record. I think the important thing to decide is not whether or not this article can be read into the record at the present time or whether it refers to the necessity for a plebiscite. Obviously the first words in this editorial do refer to a plebiscite, and with respect I feel Your Honour should take this article somewhat out of context and say that it is germane at the present time. In other words, if I may put it in another way, if the hon. member wishes to stand on his two feet and say, not for his own constituency but for other constituencies—if he referred to Sudbury—that as a result of reading an editorial he is led to believe that the people in that constituency do desire a plebiscite, he can do so. If Your Honour rules he cannot read the actual editorial, surely he may paraphrase the editorial and put its views before the house.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Further to the point of order, I would suggest that the word "plebiscite" coming in is incidental. Surely from time to time, ever since the question came up in this house, there has been talk about a plebiscite and it should not be out of order simply because the editorial has the word "plebiscite" in it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows that the Chair is concerned with the rights of all hon. members and that in reaching decisions reference has to be made to the authorities, and some guidance obtained from them. If the hon. member would read May, Bourinot or Beuchesne he would know that this question has been dealt with on many occasions. Beuchesne, in citation 157, says it is out of order to read in a debate any extract which reflects on any proceedings before the house. In other words, if an editorial is directed at the very subject matter of a debate in the house, expressing an opinion, perhaps, for or against the way in which a debate is being carried on, it is the suggestion of the authors that this cannot be read because a debate should be the expression of hon. members' own views. I suggest the hon. member should bear this in mind.

I certainly would have no objection if he were to paraphrase the views of other people

and make their views his own. But the rule is there, and it has to be respected.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Could he not agree with this editorial and then go ahead and read it?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** That would be against the rules.

**Mr. Horner (The Battlefords):** In short, then, the government fears a plebiscite because when polls were taken in some of the larger cities it was found that the people wanted a plebiscite. They also found that in nine out of the ten provinces of Canada the large majority favoured the red ensign. The only province where the people favoured this other flag with the dead maple leaf on it was Quebec, and even there people were not 100 per cent in favour of it. I cannot understand why this matter has to take up so much of the time of the house—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Horner (The Battlefords):** It was not even mentioned in the speech from the throne. It was not mentioned in the election campaign in the province of Quebec. Probably the Liberal party was running four different campaigns—one in Quebec, one in the maritimes, one in British Columbia—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** These remarks are not germane to the subject matter of the debate. Perhaps the hon. member will confine his remarks to the motion which was moved earlier.

**Mr. Nasserden:** With all due deference, Mr. Speaker, I believe they are germane. This is one of the reasons for advocating a plebiscite. It is because of the duplicity of the party opposite in the—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Perhaps the hon. member for Rosthern would allow the hon. member for The Battlefords to make that argument.

**Mr. Horner (The Battlefords):** Mr. Speaker, I implore the Prime Minister of this country to use his good judgment in this connection and let this question be decided by a plebiscite. I ask him to let the people of this country decide. I for one will accept the flag for which the majority of the people of this country vote. I do not like to say too much against the proposed flag design because it might possibly be our flag some day.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.