

Canadian Flag

in another flag resolution. This matter touches the emotions of all Canadians but he would toss it off very lightly. We expect this kind of attitude from the Liberal party but I always thought that the New Democratic party was a little more sincere.

Miss LaMarsh: Ha, ha.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): The hon. lady says "ha, ha".

Miss LaMarsh: I sure do—ha, ha, ha.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): I should like to direct some remarks particularly to her in regard to the question of a plebiscite. We in western Canada are under the handicap of having no news media that will bother to print the truth. I refer to the Southam chain of newspapers. The people of Alberta, more particularly of northern Alberta, do not receive a proper interpretation of what goes on here in Ottawa. The *Edmonton Journal* absolutely refuses—I am talking about a plebiscite.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member says what he has been saying is pertinent to the subject, but the Chair has some doubts about it. I would ask him to relate the remarks he is making now to the particular amendment before the house.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, I was about to say that the situation we are faced with in northern Alberta because of the attitude of the *Edmonton Journal* is that many people do not appreciate what the stand of our party has been in regard to the flag question. They do not appreciate that we are asking for a plebiscite. This is my entire point when I am talking about the attitude of this chain of newspapers in Alberta. They are so biased that it is really pathetic. They are nothing but apologists for the Liberal party and they really have not got very much to apologize for, Mr. Speaker, have they?

In that part of the country we have this situation, when the fact of the matter is we have been telling our constituents that we want a plebiscite because this issue is an emotional one and one that should be decided upon by the people as a whole. We have been arguing off and on for a number of months about redistribution and its effect on representation in the house, and this has a very direct relationship to the whole question of whether or not we should have a plebiscite on the emotional issue of the flag. The whole question is whether or not we in Alberta are entitled to two more seats and two

[Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson).]

more members to vote against what the government is now trying to put forward as a national flag.

The strange thing is that we have asked the government time and time again for a plebiscite to decide Canada's flag. We have said that this is an emotional issue, that it means a lot to the people of Canada, that it cannot be decided in the heat of what I call the Ottawa fever, in the biased political hotbed that is Ottawa. This matter should be above politics and it has not been. Let us put the blame where it properly lies. The government introduced this divisive issue into the house and they have carried on with it because in my opinion they do not have any legislation ready to put before the house. They charge us with being obstructionists and filibustering on the question of the flag, and whether or not there should be a plebiscite. I charge them with having no legislation available, no plans available—

Mr. McIlraith: Give us a chance to call our legislation—

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): —to help our people.

Mr. McIlraith: —by voting on the flag.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): Why did the President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith) not stand up and answer the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan) when he wanted to know how the government was going to go about implementing this thing? Why does he not take us into his confidence and tell us how he is going to do all these things?

An hon. Member: He does not know.

Mr. McIlraith: Because it is irrelevant to the debate before the house.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): I bow to the hon. gentleman's greater knowledge.

Mr. McIlraith: You should follow the rules occasionally.

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): If we could get back to the question period there are some interesting questions we would like to ask the hon. gentleman, too.

An hon. Member: Who else got furniture?

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): My hon. friend says "Who else got furniture". That would be a nice question.

Mr. McIlraith: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question. If his party wanted to have a question period over the past week why