

Private Members' Business

However, the beauty of the British parliamentary tradition is that we can disagree and remain fine gentlemen and friends to each other or a lady colleague without having to fight over this issue.

What we are talking about has to do with Canada. All members know that Canada is my love. It is my blood, my passion, my lifetime devotion.

I remember years ago when I sat here as a young member in 1964. I sat with a member of Parliament who said to me: "I do not need to be a Canadian citizen to be a member of the House of Commons. I am a British subject". Believe it or not young people of Canada, there were here in the House of Commons members of Parliament who were not even Canadian citizens because they fell under that law and they were right.

We changed that. I negotiated with my friend the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. We gave five years to get on the electoral list as a Canadian. You had to be a Canadian citizen. I wanted it immediately but some people said never. We negotiated and we got a father clause or a mother clause, if you like, of five years. Now you need to be a Canadian citizen to be on the electoral list.

This is what we talk about when we talk about Canada. We talk about evolution. We do not believe in revolution. We went slowly from a French colony to a British colony, semi-autonomous, independent. We fought for almost 100 years to get a Canadian flag. I voted for it. We have a Canadian national anthem composed by a *Canadienne française* in 1880 and now it is being sung 100 years later as *O Canada*, our pride our joy.

Years ago I put a bill before the House, and I would put it again, where I slowly wanted to change the Canadian dollar bill. Why? In order to show new Canadians who had no knowledge of what Canada is all about that together we are building a new identity called Canada.

We do not believe in insulting our monarchy. We do not believe in insulting Canadians who believe strongly in the monarchy. I have already pledged allegiance to our gracious Queen 11 times, nine times as a member of Parliament, once as a cadet officer in the Armed Forces in Shilo, Manitoba, when I was a student and very recently as a member of the Privy Council. I believe in that. However, I believe in the evolution of Canada. I believe that we can have exactly that kind of bill without

being disrespectful to the Queen. We did the same thing with the Canadian dollar. We moved slowly on it and finally had a \$2 bill. Then we said that we should Canadianize the money and we used the image of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Who today would oppose a \$5 bill showing Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

• (1550)

Then we said: "What about that great Conservative first Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald?" We kept the Queen on the \$20 bill. I am not a Conservative so I do not have a \$50 or a \$100 bill in my pocket, but I know the \$100 bill shows Borden and the \$50 bill, Mackenzie King.

I as a Liberal proposed many years ago that the image of Diefenbaker should be on \$2 Canadian bill because that is the history of Canada. I proposed that the \$20 bill show Mr. Louis St. Laurent and eventually, later, later, later, other Prime Ministers who served Canada well.

This is not to be anti-British, because I would not be part of it. This is not being anti-anything, because I would not be part of it. It is strictly to teach young Canadians what Canada is all about, a country where people's traditions are respected and where we advance slowly in society in Canadianizing our institutions.

It means something when one says: "I pledge allegiance to Canada, to its law and to its legal authority". Who is the legal authority of Canada? It is a constitutional monarchy. Of course it is the Queen. When one pledges allegiance one pledges allegiance to something one sees, something one understands, something one is proud about.

Some people say that maybe our gracious Queen will be the last Queen of Canada. I say: "Long live the Queen", but she may be the last one. I hope she will live a long and healthy life, but who knows? What if when she dies Canadians suddenly decide graciously, as we have always done in our evolution, that she will be the last. It would not be like in Australia where they said: "We will abolish Queen Elizabeth II as head of state of Australia", and that was it.

We could start by saying that when the gracious Queen of Canada dies or abdicates, according to the long tradition of the Canadian way of doing things, she could be the last monarch and that all her powers, which are quite limited, could be in the hands of the Governor General until such a day as Canadians have enough