

surrenders or extinguishments of the Indians' aboriginal title and occupation of land on whatever basis is mutually acceptable. Failing a mutually acceptable agreement rising out of such negotiations the subject matter of sale might very well then be referred to a court.

A somewhat similar situation prevailed in Alaska. The Tlingit and Haida bands were given special authority by the United States congress to proceed to the United States court of claims on this self-same question of the extinguishment of their title. Their claim was approved by the United States court of claims, which held that the Tlingits and Haidas in Alaska had never extinguished their title to land. This is the same situation as prevails in British Columbia and I think this must be dealt with first, foremost and quickly before many of these other problems can be straightened out. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may call it five o'clock.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, before you rise and report progress, I wonder whether the committee would consider going on for another hour. We are close to finishing the estimates of the Indian affairs branch. The other items that come under the jurisdiction of the minister might stand over until later in the session. Perhaps we could take the private members' bills that would be coming up today at some later date.

We are so close to finishing that I wonder whether this might be done. On the other hand, there are at least three members who would like to say something now. Perhaps in the next 60 minutes we could complete the estimates of the Indian affairs branch.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, in so far as we are concerned, we would be quite happy to assist the house leader and the hon. lady in getting on with this estimate and thus avoid perhaps starting again on another day. We would be quite happy to co-operate with the government in this respect.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I may comment on this. It is our desire, of course, to co-operate with the government and the house leader on anything that will generally be of benefit all the way round, but in this particular instance unfortunately some of us have made arrangement contingent upon the hour of five to six. I do not think it would be possible to agree to the course suggested by the house leader at this moment.

Perhaps if the request had been made at some earlier time—it was unforeseen, of course; I realize that—we might have been able to make other arrangements. But at the moment I am afraid it is rather difficult.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): It would be necessary for me, as chairman, to

Private Bills

report to the Speaker of the house in any case before unanimous consent is obtained. It being five o'clock, shall I rise, report progress and request leave to sit again later this day, or at the next sitting of the house, as the case may be?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Speaker: It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private and public bills, the latter having precedence. Today being Friday, public bills have precedence according to the temporary order.

FLAGS OF CANADA

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-17, respecting flags of Canada.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, this is the third time that I have had the privilege of introducing a bill entitled "An act respecting flags of Canada" aimed at giving this country a distinctive national flag.

I tried with all the sincerity I could muster and in objective terms, to convince hon. members of the necessity for Canada to have its own emblem.

I do not believe there is any need of reiterating arguments which have been brought forward on many occasions.

Some inquiry reports have been produced which prove without a doubt that the majority of the Canadian people are in favour of the project.

A recent survey held by the junior chamber of commerce of Canada, following which a brief was submitted to the government last March, revealed that 81 per cent of the 17,000 people questioned in every province of this country wanted a distinctive national flag.

The bill I am introducing today provides one way of carrying out this project; it asks the governor in council to prepare during this session, an appropriate design of a distinctive national flag for Canada which would later be approved by a joint resolution of both chambers before royal assent was given.

Mr. Speaker, if my bill has not gone beyond the stage of second reading, even after