

Flag Committee Report

This article, sir, to which reference was made by the hon. member for Cape Breton South, is one that cannot be excused in any way. It is a violation of the responsibility of members of parliament. That committee met throughout in a spirit that is not in keeping with this hon. member's statement here, which is one more serious than I would like to describe at this moment; in fact it constitutes a complete dereliction on his part and is a matter of serious importance to this house.

Some hon. Members: Shameful.

Mr. Diefenbaker: We have been wondering where all these leaks came from. No doubt this will have been cleared up now by the production of this article in advance of the house being apprized of the recommendations made by the committee. Indeed, it is a contravention, I believe, of the arrangement made in the committee, if I understand it correctly, namely that nothing was to be revealed of the course taken in the committee. In other words this is an *ex parte* statement made by an hon. gentleman designed to exculpate himself and apparently others associated with him in a course of action which is inexcusable in the extreme.

Mr. Speaker: I have not seen the article and the Chair is taken by surprise, but I will look into the matter.

CANADIAN FLAG

PRESENTATION OF SIXTH AND SEVENTH AND FINAL REPORTS

Mr. H. M. Batten (Humber-St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the sixth report, as well as the seventh and final report, of the special committee on a Canadian flag, in English and in French.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I ask that the report be read?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I am advised that it is not generally the practice to read the report of a committee at this time but with the unanimous consent of the house it could be read. Does the house give unanimous consent to the reading of the committee's report?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pearson: Both reports.

[*The Clerk Assistant proceeded to read the sixth report, as follows:*]

[*Mr. Diefenbaker.*]

The special committee on a Canadian flag has the honour to present the following as its sixth report.

1. Pursuant to its order of reference of September 10, 1964, your committee has before it, for consideration and report, the flag question.

2. On September 15, 1964, the House of Commons designated 15 members of the committee: Mrs. Konantz, Messrs. Batten, Cadieux (Terrebonne), Deachman, Dubé, Flemming (Victoria-Carleton), Langlois, Lessard (Lake St. John), Macaluso, Matheson, Monteith, Pugh, Rapp, Ricard and Scott.

3. A subcommittee on agenda and procedure was appointed. The members were Messrs. Batten, Deachman, Monteith, Ricard and Scott.

4. Your committee held 45 sittings in camera and heard 12 witnesses in the fields of history, heraldry, protocol, art and design. The members of the committee express their gratitude to these witnesses for their efforts in providing detailed information and also to the nearly 2,000 Canadians who submitted flag designs and suggestions.

5. Your committee considered the following motions:

(a) For a national plebiscite—motion defeated by a vote of nine to five (9 to 5);

(b) The adoption of only one national flag—motion carried fourteen to zero (14 to 0);

(c) That the Canadian red ensign be the national flag for Canada—motion defeated ten to four (10 to 4).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why did you bring in two flags, then?

[*The Clerk Assistant continuing:*]

6. The designs received by the committee, together with those previously submitted, were grouped into three categories, namely:

Class A—those containing three maple leaves;

Class B—those containing one maple leaf;

Class C—those containing the union jack and/or the fleur de lys.

Elimination by an agreed procedure left only one design in each category. A vote for the retention of each finalist was then taken with the following results:

A—The three maple leaf design was retained by a vote of eight to six (8 to 6);

B—The single maple leaf design was retained by a vote of thirteen to one (13 to 1);

C—The design containing the union jack and/or the fleur de lys was rejected by a vote of nine to five (9 to 5).

A vote was then taken to determine the committee's preference between the design containing three maple leaves and the design containing one maple leaf. The single maple leaf design was retained by a vote of fourteen to zero (14 to 0).

As previously agreed, a vote was taken to determine whether or not the final selection was acceptable as a national flag for Canada. The result of this vote was in favour, ten to four (10 to 4).

7. Your committee, therefore, recommends that the flag to be designated as the national flag of Canada be a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width, containing in its centre a white square, the width of the flag, bearing a single red maple, or, in heraldic terms, described as gules on a Canadian pale argent a maple leaf of the first.