

I shall not take up any more of your time, honourable senators, because we must bring this debate to a conclusion. However, I think that when our people read the *Debates of the Senate*, and especially the great oratory of the honourable senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary) and others, they will say that the Senate is a valuable second chamber. They will say that this has been a good review of what was done in the lower house. I shall be glad to have been able to give a little leadership in respect of a problem about which our people are disturbed. This is a change for the better. It is for the good of Canada.

The Honourable the Speaker called it 6 o'clock and left the Chair until 7.30 o'clock.

At 7.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Hon. Gunnar S. Thorvaldson: Honourable senators, there is one thing that I have discovered in this debate and that is that to do real justice to it you need to be one of two things, you must be either an Irish Canadian or a French Canadian; the rest of us are out in the cold. Such has been the quality of the oratory in this debate of members of these two races.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): You do not put the Catholic Church into that?

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: When I tell you that any Irish in me goes back about 1,000 years, you can understand that I feel quite alone in participating in this discussion this evening.

However, honourable senators, we are engaged in a discussion which is of tremendous significance to our country, but what is really involved now is that most important attribute of a sovereign nation, namely, the unity and harmony of its people. It is true that it has taken a long time for the resolution on the flag to get here, and we are aware that all sides of this question have had ample exposure in the other place.

Consequently, there may be no great purpose in debating the subject further here, if this side of the house deemed that in the result we would be crushed merely by the weight of numbers and a partisan spirit. On the contrary, we have some conviction that reason and good judgment may prevail in the deliberations of this body. That is the reason for the amendment presented by the honourable senator for Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary), which I am proud to support with all my conviction.

As my remarks will be directed entirely to the amendment, I shall read it into the record. It is as follows:

That the motion be amended by striking out all of the words after "Government" and substituting therefor "that the Government suspend further action on the proposal for a new Canadian flag in order to give reasonable time to the people and Parliament of Canada to reach agreement on a flag which will incorporate appropriate symbols of the founding peoples of this nation and which will be acceptable to all elements of our population.

However, with reference to the Senate's part in this debate I was somewhat shocked when I turned my radio on yesterday morning and listened to the program, "C.B.C. News Commentary". These were the words I heard by a C.B.C. representative on a C.B.C. station, speaking of the Commons flag debate. He said: "Well, it is all over, all over except possibly some shouting in the Senate."

"Shouting in the Senate". This, to my mind, was a most disrespectful and insulting remark, if I may say so, made by this C.B.C. commentator concerning the senior parliamentary body of this country.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: I believe it would have been at least educational for him if the gentleman who made this statement had been in our galleries yesterday and had listened to some of the very thoughtful and restrained speeches made here, including of course those of the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West), of the senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary), the senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), the senator from Banff (Hon. Mr. Cameron), the senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Walker), and others. Indeed, I wish to pay my very high respects to those gentlemen on the quality of their contribution to this debate yesterday. The gentleman who spoke on the radio might not then have called it "shouting in the Senate". Perhaps I might send the C.B.C. a copy of our *Hansard*, at least for yesterday.

Nevertheless, perhaps a reason for this person making this unprovoked attack on the Senate may have been induced by the manner in which the Senate has been ignored and brushed aside in the proceedings that have taken place in regard to the selection of a design for the proposed new Canadian flag. I object most strongly that this body was not, as in my judgment it should have been, made