

Motions for Papers

much to split. Nevertheless, I do suggest it is a most disgraceful exhibition for a former minister of the crown to refer to a flag which is essentially composed of Canada's royal coat of arms, given by royal decree, as being a frightful atrocity. Then, too, when the hon. gentleman referred to this flag as being someone's personal choice he is again denying the fact that the essential component of the design is Canada's royal coat of arms. It seems to me the hon. member is suggesting that the best of all possible worlds could be enjoyed by taking these 3,000 suggested designs all of which, no doubt, are very worthy, and putting them before the house so that people of supreme artistic taste, such as himself, can make a selection from them. Really, I can think of nothing worse which could be foisted upon the country than that this question should be decided in accordance with the artistic abilities of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre or of his cohort from Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm aiding and abetting him in this supreme artistic endeavour. If it comes to a matter of artistic taste—

Mr. Pigeon: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Greene: As I was saying, if it comes to a matter of artistic taste, I would prefer that of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson).

Mr. Pigeon: Hey.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Greene: Inasmuch as the main component of the flag was selected by His Majesty King George V when he selected the coat of arms, I, for one, would much prefer that a choice be made of this symbol of Canada's history, one which has its roots deep in our past, than that the selection be left to people such as the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

I was also a little surprised to hear that the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre was so anxious to have the union jack perpetuated as Canada's royal emblem. I think all of us here have as great a respect for our past and for our heritage as has the hon. member. I think this is certainly evidenced by the fact that the royal emblem of Canada, authorized by royal decree, is an essential part of the suggested flag. But most of us in this house and, we believe, most people in this country, feel the time has now come for the selection of a unique Canadian emblem without reference to our antecedents in the

[Mr. Greene.]

United Kingdom or elsewhere. I wonder if the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, since he is so anxious to preserve the past exactly as it was, without recognizing the evolution which has taken place, would also like to revoke the Statute of Westminster? I think this would be in keeping with his chain of thought expressed with regard to our emblem. It is possible he feels the colonial office should still operate in control of the affairs of Canada. I hope he will be consistent in his representation to this house. What we are witnessing today is a mere gentle backwater of the flag debate which will shortly be commencing. When that debate opens I hope the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre and his cohort from Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm—

Mr. Pigeon: May I call it six o'clock?

Mr. Greene: Will be consistent and ask that the Statute of Westminster—

Mr. Pigeon: You will vote for two flags. It will be—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Churchill: Afraid to vote.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

Mr. Knowles: So have we.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock p.m. this day are as follows:

The hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon), legal action respecting the program "Twenty Years Later"; the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard), floods in British Columbia and potential dangers on the Skeena river; the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Plourde), labour conditions, provision for unemployed to receive unemployment insurance or social assistance.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.