

National Anthem

there is no objection whatsoever to recognizing as official Sir A. B. Routhier's version.

So there is nothing more comforting than for a thoroughbred Canadian to hear "O Canada" being sung elsewhere. I for one will remember as long as I live the emotional loyalty I felt for my country on such occasions at singing, in French, at various meetings of the foreign policy association or the institute of pacific relations, for instance, together with some people of other nations singing in English "O Canada".

Is it necessary to recall here what the former prime minister, (Mr. Mackenzie King), related to this house last year, when he stated how proud and happy he was to hear "O Canada" being sung as a friendly and grateful gesture from nations of western Europe while traveling on the continent after the war?

May I be permitted to quote here what was said in this very chamber on April 1, 1943, as reported at page 1746 of *Hansard*, by Right Hon. Anthony Eden:

As dominions secretary in the opening month of the war it was my privilege to travel to a certain port, there to welcome the first contingent of your army to reach the shores of the old country. Sir, I could never forget that scene. It was a beautiful winter morning, such as we do have in Britain sometimes, at a famous port which I suppose must still remain anonymous; such are the rules of censorship. I was the spectator of the scene from the flagship of the commander in chief of the home fleet. As the great armada of liners swung into sight under the escort of the Royal Navy, cheering Canadian troops lined the decks and the band of the flagship played "O Canada."

Sir, I think it is about time that our parliament, through this motion, implemented at home what is being taken for granted abroad so far as our national anthem is concerned. I also think it is surely not too early for the elected representatives of the people of our country, who from ocean to ocean have expressed their desire to have "O Canada" as their national anthem, to comply with this desire and to carry this motion unanimously.

(Translation):

While I can understand quite well my colleagues' enthusiasm in promoting as our country's national anthem the hymn "O Canada" by Calixa Lavallée and A. B. Routhier, I could less easily account for their willingness to bury under the flowers of their rhetoric a motion whose sole object, I ask you to believe, is to serve Canada simply and solely.

I believe that in these troublous times more than ever—considering, for instance, the North Atlantic pact—our national unity will only be maintained if we direct our national objective towards sound guiding marks or symbols, of

[Mr. Cote (Matapedia-Matane).]

which a national anthem would be one of the most appropriate.

(Text):

I believe also that it is high time our parliament should resolve the unbelievable confusion which exists, in and out of Canada, with regard to a most important symbol for a nation, increasingly proud of its rank in world affairs.

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I rise to make some observations with respect to the resolution which has been so simply and so ably moved and explained by the hon. member for Matapedia-Matane (Mr. Cote). At the outset I should like to say that my approach to a matter such as this will be largely coloured by and fully reflective of the feelings which those of us entertain who are proud to proclaim our love of a great country. We should approach the problem with tolerance, with understanding, and I hope with the reason which must always surround circumstances such as these.

In my public career and in my private life I believe I have been fortunate in being completely free of any deep-rooted or rock-bound prejudices. I believe that gives one some sense of assurance when dealing with a matter such as the resolution which is now before the house. In relation to a matter which on the face of it looks simple and uncomplicated, it is essential to emphasize certain aspects of it which may make the issue clearer and more understandable from the point of view of hon. members generally. In matters of this kind sentiment, of course, runs deep; but I suppose if we had no sentiment we would be without one of the great assets that have contributed to the building up of this nation to what it is today. I make no apologies, therefore, for speaking with some sentiment, because no Canadian need apologize for approaching a matter of this kind from the point of view of love of his country and loyalty to its institutions. Sentiment does play a great and noble part in the foundations of the things to which I have just referred.

When dealing with matters from the point of view of sentiment one finds, of course, deep and easily injured sensibilities in many of the citizens of our land. These are things which all of us have learned to respect and admire in the people who make up this great country. There is a great need in Canada—perhaps no greater than in any other country, but certainly the need is evident here—of finding a common basis upon which agreement can be reached among all sections of our nation. We should not strive to find the things which divide us from the point of view of sentiment. We should endeavour, in a