

Business of the House

ment of national unity. Any suggestion in that vein is sheer nonsense.

Regardless of the merits of a referendum, no one can tell me that if the Canadian people are consulted and allowed to make a decision on an issue of this kind it is going to be disruptive of national unity. Certainly a decision made by a group of men sitting on the treasury benches, accepted by the majority of a house of minorities, is not the way to achieve national unity. One does not achieve national unity by ramming something such as a flag down the throats of the Canadian public. That is the attitude taken by the government, and that is all that can be said for it.

Since there is to be no plebiscite and the Canadian people are not to be consulted, I wonder where this flag is to be flown. It will be flown over the peace tower, of course, when and if it is authorized by the parliament of Canada. My friends to my left in the N.D.P. section of the house have said that Conservatives are beginning to adopt Mr. Mackenzie King as one of their patron saints. I would not go that far, but it was Mr. Mackenzie King who, by his order in council, said that the flag which is flown today over the peace tower is to be the flag of Canada until it is changed by a decision of the parliament of Canada. The flag to be flown after such a decision is not the flag chosen by this house, but a flag chosen by this house and by the members of that other place. I do not know by what legerdemain this proposed white flag will fly by Christmas. However, when it does fly, if ever,

it will fly over public buildings in Canada, but where else? Will it fly in Newfoundland or will the union jack fly there? Will it fly in Quebec?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Nowlan: I hear some hon. members say "yes". I can tell you, sir, that it will not fly universally in the maritime provinces, nor will it fly universally across Canada generally, because it will not be the adopted flag of the Canadian people. We will set back Canadian acceptance of a Canadian flag by at least 25 years as a result of the way in which this government has dealt with the matter, jamming it down the throats of the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I may ask the house leader a question? I am wondering for obvious reasons whether the government will consider asking this house to set aside tomorrow and perhaps the next day to deal with the Canada labour code?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I hope that tomorrow we can proceed to a consideration of the Canada labour code legislation at the conclusion of the flag debate.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.
