

But neither this money nor the surplus Fraser fund money can make victim's lives less miserable while tied up in the bank, while governments debate what's a national emergency and what isn't.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, there are two points I should like to make. I certainly hope the federal cabinet will, as requested by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, reconsider the amount of money they have already donated. Second, I hope the cabinet will give consideration to the idea of setting up a national disaster fund which could act more quickly than is the case at the present time. There are many federal-provincial conferences these days, and this matter certainly should be the subject of a federal-provincial conference. It seems to me that such a plan as is necessary can be worked out so that we do not have these very long delays every time a civil disaster occurs.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I just rise for a few minutes to answer a suggestion made yesterday by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) when he stated that in the event of a supply motion, the opposition might then air its views with regard to the national flag.

The supply motion is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday; we understand that the official opposition does not seem at all anxious to take this opportunity of discussing the matter of the national flag. To my mind, we have that opportunity today, and I believe that our views, on this side of the house, are well known. We favour a distinctive flag, but we do not want to embark upon a discussion on the design of that flag, because it would be endless. But we do want to give the house a chance of stating its views on this point, so as to encourage the Prime Minister to introduce as soon as possible his resolution on the national flag. We are availing ourselves of this opportunity to enable the house to express its views on this subject and thus facilitate the task of the Prime Minister and the cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the interim supply resolution. I simply suggest to include one sentence. Here is my amendment, in French and in English:

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Bélanger), that the following words be added to the interim supply resolution:

"This house considers that it is opportune to adopt as soon as possible a distinctive Canadian flag".

Mr. Chairman, that does not affect the budget at all. There is no increase in the expenditures. Neither is there a vote of non-

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confidence. It simply means that we take advantage of the circumstances that give us an opportunity to discuss any matter at all during such a period. Since we are permitted to discuss all sorts of matters, we are also allowed to introduce an amendment concerning the matter we wish to have discussed. That does not affect the budget in the least.

This amendment we are bringing forward is only the expression of a wish. We would like to have it accepted as such. It gives us an opportunity to make the Prime Minister aware of the fact that he will have our support and the support of all members of this house when the time comes to select a distinctive Canadian flag.

There is no reference in this amendment to a specific design, but simply to the principle of a distinctive Canadian flag.

That is why we, of the Ralliement Créditiste take this first opportunity to show the government—we also hope that all the members of the party in power will therefore give us their support—that we support them and that the house also supports the decision to adopt a distinctive flag for Canada.

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Lapointe moves that the following words be added to the interim supply resolution:

This house considers it is opportune to adopt as soon as possible a distinctive Canadian flag.

[Text]

The hon. member for Lapointe moves that the following words be added to the interim supply resolution:

This house considers it is opportune to adopt as soon as possible a distinctive Canadian flag.

Is there any hon. member who would like to offer views regarding the legality of the proposed amendment?

Mr. Lambert: I think it is quite obvious that a reading of the most elementary rules of the house would indicate that this amendment goes away beyond the ambit of the resolution, which is one dealing with interim supply and the voting of certain credits to the government. The amendment, dealing with the subject matter of a flag, is as different as day to night, when applied to the resolution. It enlarges the ambit of the resolution and that is not permitted to an hon. member. I would therefore submit the amendment is wholly out of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) said that one has only to read the standing orders of the house to realize that our amendment is not in order, but he has not mentioned any standing order which says that this amendment is against the rules—