

Canadian Flag

worthy in every way. I can place on the record some of the statements that were made regarding these hon. gentlemen, statements made by Liberal members, statements made by the Prime Minister ridiculing their policies, statements made by leaders of Liberalism, not the least of whom is the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis). He is a great tribune. He went through the province of Quebec and excoriated Social Credit; he showed that it was an ally of Hitler and Mussolini. People believed these hon. gentlemen. However, today they are all together. What a family relationship this is.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have the floor.

Mr. Caouette: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

I should like to know the connection between the statement of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the choice of a distinctive national flag.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman will wait, I am going to satisfy his curiosity for information in a moment. I am glad he asked that question, because only the other day that well known democrat, that believer in parliamentary democracy, the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), was all ready, apparently, to move the previous question and impose closure. Now that he has the approval, the approbation in anticipation, of the Prime Minister I am sure it will not be long before the water boys of the Créditistes again operate to help the government of the day, and we can look forward to a motion on their part to carry out the wishes of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do hope these interruptions are real questions of privilege, because otherwise they would be out of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Imputing motives to

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

members of this house may give rise to a normal question of privilege.

It is presumed that we intend to support the government. That is untrue, but at least we are sufficiently honest and politically conscious to support the good measures submitted by the government, because we do not consider ourselves as members of the opposition but as members of the House of Commons, of the Canadian parliament.

I deny the Leader of the Opposition the right to question our intentions and our honesty in the circumstances.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that is not a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not deny the hon. gentleman political conscience. He did not refer to conscience; therefore I take it—

Mr. Grégoire: Yes, I did.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—there is significance in the fact that he placed before the word “conscience” the word “political”. It is of political conscience that I am now speaking. The fact is that the other day it was this hon. gentleman who threatened this course of action and I expect, as I said a moment ago, that it will not be long before the allies of the Créditistes will join with the government to bring in this motion which the government is loth to bring in but can support if they have the benefit of its introduction by their Créditiste allies.

Mr. Pepin: Apologize to Balcer.

Mr. Grégoire: What about Balcer?

Some hon. Members: What about your deputy leader?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are in the process of hearing some very interesting speeches today, and I do hope we can continue to hear them.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, there is a very fine spirit of levity apparent, and I am glad the house is receiving my words in that kindly way that always characterizes this chamber, except on occasion. I started by saying there was no mandate. I now quote, for the benefit of the house, what has been said in this regard. I have had to send to my office to get material, so perhaps it will not be in the order it should be, because I had not expected the threat of closure today.