

*Canadian Flag*

They have now suggested that a plebiscite would be disruptive. I should like to refer to the criticism of the Progressive Conservative party for taking a stand on a plebiscite. We have been condemned and reviled, and called obstructionists.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, one can take a donkey and give him arguments, but one cannot give him the sense to understand.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I immediately assure you, Mr. Speaker, that had no reference to anyone. It was just a philosophical observation.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I think this is justified on my part, because we have heard enough falsehoods and lies this afternoon concerning what happened in the House of Commons during the last three or four months.

I think the leader of the official opposition is listening to me. When he said, a few moments ago, that, with the complacent support of the third parties in the house—he did mention us, if not by name, by implication—the three maple leaf flag was changed to a design with a single maple leaf, and that everybody had complied with the wishes of the government—

[*Text*]

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** I can understand the Conservatives not enjoying having the facts thrown in their face, but they will get them nevertheless.

Mr. Speaker, the setting up of the parliamentary committee to consider the choice of a distinctive flag was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition and nobody else.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, there is no point of privilege. I have sat here and listened to this—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —and all I say is that a speech is in order if the hon. gentleman wants to make it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am quite sure that if the hon. member for Villeneuve wishes to take part in the debate he will have an opportunity in due course, but I do not see a point of privilege. No particular label or name of

any particular party was used. The term could be applied to anyone in the chamber.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I entirely agree with you, Mr. Speaker, but I think you went a little wide there.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Villeneuve is really engaging in an argument, not a point of privilege. An opportunity will be provided in due course for the hon. member to take part in the debate.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I do not intend to participate in this debate—

[*Text*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I am asking you whether one raises a question of privilege when one tries to prevent someone from lying in this house?

[*Text*]

**Some hon. Members:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, there was no such word used. I do not want to interpolate anything in my speech that might cause exacerbated feelings on the part of the hon. gentleman but if he is interested he might refer to what he said about various Liberal members now sitting in the government during the last election campaign. I will use those statements whenever the opportunity demands; I have them here. The hon. member speaks of words that shock his finer sensibilities. He referred to the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis), who certainly made the hon. member's life miserable during the last election campaign—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —as an imbecile, fool, animal, bloodsucker, and dishonest leader.

**An hon. Member:** For once he was right.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** With a flow of non-vituperative language like that I can understand that the hon. member would be shocked to associate himself with any animal. I could go into that at length but I really do not want to. It has been said that because we dared to take this stand we have therefore been obstructive. Because we have taken a stand on behalf of the Canadian people and their rights it has been said that we have held up parliament.