

*Canadian Flag*

the cover of a controlled party vote, I predict it will be a vote for their enforced retirement from politics. Of the Ontario members opposite who have spoken in this debate, some surely must be ashamed to face their constituents. There are some who have already sealed their political fate. I have here a clipping. If any of those members from Ontario who have spoken would like to verify this I suggest that they read this editorial and they will realize what I am talking about.

There are some really conscientious people sitting over there and I know their hearts must ache when they think of the intolerable and unfair position in which they find themselves. I entreat these members to rid themselves of this yoke and to take a stand that is honourable. Keep faith with the people who put their confidence in you. Do not turn your backs on your own people.

This Pearson flag is the most exploited political football this country has seen in a long time. It was used in one particular part of Canada during the last election campaign as a bribe for support. Now the supposedly finished product is being dangled before the same people's eyes to entice them in an election, now being planned, to give all their support to the Liberal camp. In the House of Commons it has been used freely as the proverbial red herring. Every time the government gets bogged down through poorly designed legislation the flag is dragged in until they can get their program back on the rails. These tactics leave the impression that the flag debate is holding up parliament which, of course, is the impression they hope to create in order to get themselves off the hook.

Many Canadians are concerned about the washing out of all ancestral symbols on the flag. Many others do not like the suggested replacement and still many others cannot stomach the cunning political and personal intrigue involved.

Why all the brainwashing, the introduction of a three leaf postage stamp and the effort to leave the impression that it had no motive, the kite flying of a personal flag for a select group of the press, an expert way to have propaganda exploited? Why was the Royal Canadian Legion imposed upon at their dominion convention with a flag speech and on a Sunday night set aside for devotional matters? The Prime Minister must have known that upon introducing his three leaf monstrosity he would be about as welcome as a skunk at a garden party. Could it be that he hoped it would be the means of making him a martyr? Why was the three leaf flag flown

at the Prime Minister's summer home at Harrington lake and in front of the parliament buildings? It was all part of the brainwashing campaign.

To finalize the whole dictatorial splurge the House of Commons is threatened with an election unless the Pearson flag is accepted. This is the way the communists decide issues. The results are determined beforehand and made known. Then it is only a matter of going through the motions of taking a vote. Such procedure would be one of the most damaging blows ever delivered against any country in a democratic world. I am sure the communists go along with this thinking because in the August 6 edition of the *Ottawa Citizen* the following endorsement of the Pearson flag appeared:

From the communist national executive: "The communist party supports you."

To the embarrassment of all Canadians it is our own Prime Minister who is threatening to commit this offence. None of our prime ministers of the past had the temerity to select personally a flag for Canada. None of them in their wisdom would meddle with the flag even under circumstances very much more favourable than those in which we find this nation today. If any change in our flag had taken place in the past, I am sure it would have been the choice of the majority.

A change in the flag at this time bears all the earmarks of appeasement. Could this government be so naïve as to think that the far reaching aspirations of the French Canadians are going to be satisfied by handing them a new piece of bunting to wave? Perhaps the Prime Minister is again being led down the garden path by those who advised him on the merits of a truth squad, carrier pigeons, colouring books and the like.

He must surely realize that this is a most inopportune time to press this flag change. We have seen enough and heard enough to indicate that there is actually a revolution taking place in Quebec. Violence has been resorted to on quite a number of occasions as a result of the intense emotional situation. Quebec has several radicals who are given wide publicity in their speeches which foment trouble in that province and offend Canadians in other parts of the country. These regrettable circumstances have built up prejudices across Canada and a difficult situation has been created. The whole political atmosphere is such that this precipitate flag action should have been deferred until at least a semblance of normalcy was restored.