

Canadian Sovereignty

a state separate from the other provinces, another separate country.

Mr. Speaker, give me another example which can contribute more to national disunion, in other words, to the disintegration of confederation.

In closing my remarks, may I refer to an excellent article published in the newspaper *Le Droit*, on February 6, 1962, under the heading:

The impertinence of an M.P.

This is how it reads:

The great pre-electoral tide is evident. The tidal wave cannot yet be perceived. Nevertheless, the heavy foam which appears on the waters betrays the strong rising tide and the desperate efforts of boatmen to reach safe anchorage.

And the article continues as follows:

But everything points to the fact that impertinence will be carried to an extreme. Yes, our country, without a flag after centuries, would suddenly get two. This is truly exaggerating. We are being spoiled. Canadians have surely not lost anything for waiting—This is even better than advertisements about cats for the Congo and contributions for the widow of the unknown soldier.

No, Mr. Pickersgill, a country does not grow richer with flags—

Please note the use of the plural.

—by the pair, like an individual buys shoes, snow-shoes or skis—A spare tire can be very useful, but such a precaution is out of place when choosing a national emblem. And, by an irony of fate, the member for Bonavista-Twillingate—

And this also applies to the Leader of the Opposition.

—belongs to a party which, although in power for a great number of years, has not been very prodigal with flags. Yesterday, what stinginess. Today, what generosity. And why not three, six, or a whole dozen of flags, for the different circumstances, just as there are handkerchiefs for colds and handkerchiefs for hired weepers?

And the article continues:

The problem which now exists is not very complicated. Canada needs a flag, not England, nor France nor Palestine. Our country is no longer a colony. There is no question of being disrespectful to the monarchy. Canada has its own queen. If it is ridiculous to give two flags to our country, it is all the more ridiculous to try to give a second flag to proud Albion which has had one for a long while now. How is it that French Canadians who have not forgotten their origin favour a distinctive flag? It is because their devotion to the motherland is not greater than their love for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to quote an excerpt from that excellent article.

In closing my remarks, I wish to congratulate again the hon. member for Sherbrooke for his worthy proposal which gives an opportunity not only for free discussion in this house but also for the promotion of the cause of a distinctive national flag.

Besides, I should like to bring to the attention of this house the political confusion

[Mr. Pigeon.]

which is evident among the members of the opposition who sometimes support the adoption of two flags and two national anthems, while the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate wants six flags and also six official anthems.

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, after listening to the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) and the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon), I say without the slightest hesitation that the hon. member for Sherbrooke has contributed to this debate in a much more serious fashion than the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

The hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm at the outset condemned what the hon. member for Sherbrooke had said.

He said that if things go on as they are, Canada will be marking its centenary as a colony in 1967; the mere mention of that fact is ridiculous. Moreover, he spent his time talking first about two flags, then about six flags, stating that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) had favoured two flags.

It is evident to anyone who takes a serious look at the situation that the Leader of the Opposition spoke of one national flag; but he added that the union jack could be kept for those who wish to use it occasionally. Besides, we have seen and we still see every day in the province of Quebec, on our national day or in Corpus Christi processions, people who, after having been detached from France for more than 200 years, still display the blue, white and red flag of France, which is very decorative. That does not mean however that they are more French than Canadian. This simply means they still keep in their hearts a certain feeling for their old mother country.

I must say I have admired the speech of the hon. member for Sherbrooke. But I must disagree with my colleague from Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Boulanger), because I do not share all his views. I rather regret that purely political motives should have been included in this matter, as was done most particularly by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

I suggest that this matter should be dealt with objectively, as was done by the hon. member for Sherbrooke, whom I congratulate.

We can hold different views. We can claim that it should be up to the government to rule on the matter, especially since it has been under discussion for many years. But, on the other hand, I do not object to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke that we should ask a committee formed of persons having some particular knowledge of the arts, to choose among the thousands of designs